Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-106 *2 June 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Baghdad Hosts Arab Popular Forces Conference 1
Hammudi Views Agenda *[INA]* 1
Ramadan Urges Arabs To Help Lift Blockade *[INA]* 1

Islamic Affairs

OIC Chief Condemns 'Barbaric Actions' by Serbs *[SPA]* 3
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 23 May 3

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Central Committee Discusses Peace Process 5
Agrees To Continue Talks With Israel *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
Hears Results of 'Arafat-Peres Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 5
People's Party Boycotts Executive Committee Meetings *[AL-QUDS 31 May]* 5
Al-Husayni: Arabs Should Use Ties To Influence Israel *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 31-35 May]* .. 6
Al-Husayni Estimate on W. Jerusalem Property 'Low' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Jun]* 6
Qaddumi Reportedly Meets With Fatah Dissidents *[AL-SAFIR 27 Jun]* 7
'Urayqat: No Elections Without Israeli Redeployment *[VOP]* 8
Abu-'Ayyash on Radio, TV Transmission Agreement *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Palestinian Investment Bank Opens in Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
PA Seeks Deal To Release All Hamas, Jihad Prisoners *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Jun]* 9
Hamas on 'Oppressive Measures' by Jordan, 'Arafat *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 9
Shaykh Yasin on Relations With PA, Israel *[MA'ARIV 2 Jun]* 9
Hamas Explosive Expert Flees to 'Arab Country' *[AL-DIYAR 20 May]* 11
Islamic Jihad Split Story Called 'a Fabrication' *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Jun]* 12
PFLP, DFLP on Banning of Conference in Amman *[AL-NAHAR 30 May]* 13
PFLP-GC Criticizes Self-Rule Authority Actions *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 13
Two PPSF Offices in Damascus Reportedly Closed *[AL-RA'Y 1 Jun]* 13

Arab-Israeli Talks

Fatah Source on Difficulties in 'Janin First' Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

'Sources' See U.S. Shifting Ground on Armed Groups *[London AL-HAYAH 31 May]* 15
Reservists Recalled for Enlistment in Armed Forces *[Algiers Radio]* 15

Egypt

Policeman, 'Terrorist' Killed in al-Minya *[MENA]* 15
Officials Claim Governorate Secure *[AL-WAFD 25 May]* 16
Governor Outlines Sinai Economic Plans *[AL-MUSAWWAR 7 Apr]* 16

Morocco

Reportage on Market, Fishing Dispute With Spain 21
Statement Issued on 'Obstruction' *[Rabat Radio]* 21
Shipowners Back 'Legitimate' Stance *[MAP]* 21
Party Urges Suspension of Negotiations *[MAP]* 21
Negotiations With EU Resume *[Rabat TV]* 22

Sudan

Rebel Group SSIM/A Extends Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 22
Rebel Group Denies 'Untrue Allegations' *[AFP]* 22
Official Explains Ban on 2 Newspapers *[Omdurman Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Iranian Envoy, Officials Review Bilateral Relations *[IRNA]* 25

Oman

Foreign Minister Meets Israel's Peres on Peace *[Muscat Radio]* 25

Qatar

Iranian Goods To Be Re-exported to Regional States *[IRNA]* 25

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Press Warned on 'Unprecedented Attacks' *[SPA]* 26

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Visit Denied; View on Islands Reaffirmed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 May]* . 26

Yemen

President Urges Envoys To Support Economic Reform *[Sanaa Radio]* 27

IRAQ

Antiregime Leaflets Reportedly Handed Out in Mosul *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
Opposition Claims Tribal Chiefs Detained in al-Anbar *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
Iranian Pilot Reportedly Defects to Kurdish Area *[AFP]* 28
Kurdish Leader Barzani Extends Truce Until 15 Jun *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 28
Officials Brief National Assembly on Achievements *[AL-THAWRAH 24 May]* 28
Editorial on Results of Blockade on Citizens *[London AL-MAJALLAH 22 Apr]* 29
Editorial Views 'Failure' of Arab League *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 20-21 Mar]* 30

ISRAEL

Levi Faction To Discuss Split From Likud *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Jun]* 36
Levi May Quit Soon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Rabin: Referendum To Precede Golan Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Rabin: Strong Army Is Answer to 'Surprises' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Peres: al-Asad Must Confer in 'Broad Daylight' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Peres Reaffirms Talks on Territories 'Serious' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Jun]* 37
Peres: No Intention To Seize Jerusalem Land *[MAP]* 37
Police Minister Denies Rabin Shelved Separation Plan *[Jerusalem TV Channel 1]* 38
Source: al-Asad Interested in Advancing Peace *[DAVAR 2 Jun]* 38
Government To Abide by U.S. Limit on Ofeq-3 Photos *[HA'ARETZ 1 Jun]* 39
Government Signs Treaty Banning 'Inhumane' Arms *[HA'ARETZ 1 Jun]* 39
Knesset Approves Transfer of Funds to PA *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Jun]* 40
Al-Husayni To Seek Permit for Jerusalem Building *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Israelis, Palestinians Polled on Divided Jerusalem *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Jun]* 40
General Testifies to Knesset on 'Terror Attacks' *[HA'ARETZ 31 May]* 41
Many Hamas, Islamic Jihad Members Arrested Since Oct *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Court Sentences Spies for Hizballah, Syria *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Jun]* 42
'Terrorist' To Be Retried; Imam's Home Raided *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Hamas 'Terrorist' Killed in Hebron Shoot-Out *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42

JORDAN

Al-Kabariti Denies U.S. 'Backing Down' on Aid *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 31 May]* 44
Daily Claims 'Arrest Campaign' Targeting PFLP *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 31 May]* 44
Government Urged To Open Dialogue With Opposition *[AL-DUSTUR 1 Jun]* 45
Further on Cancelled Opposition Conference *[AL-MAJD 29 May]* 45
Economic, Transport Issues Discussed With Israel *[Amman Radio]* 47

LEBANON

President al-Asad's Son Visits Birri *[Beirut Radio]* 48

SYRIA

Egyptian President, Delegation Arrive in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Egypt's Al-Sharif Outlines Visit *[MENA]* 49
Mubarak Meets al-Asad on Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold News Conference *[Damascus TV]* 50
Mubarak Departs, Meets Chief Editors *[MENA]* 52
Proposed Israeli Referendum on Golan Called 'Trick' *[Vienna TV]* 53

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Antidrug State Commission *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Released Pakistanis Deny Involvement in Fighting *[Message of Freedom]* 55
Commentary Asks Islamic Countries for Assistance *[Kabul Radio]* 55
Bank Accuses Uzbekistan of Forged Banknotes *[Kabul Radio]* 55

India

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Kashmir 55
Police Kill 2 Pakistani Nationals *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Minister Comments on Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Parties Welcome Presidential Rule *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Columnist Describes Kashmir 'War' *[THE ASIAN AGE 30 May]* 56
Editorial Attacks 'Feeble' Policy *[DAINIK JAGRAN 31 May]* 57
Minister Comments on Nuclear Fuel Development *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Burma Assists Army Operations in Northeast *[THE ASIAN AGE 27 May]* 58
British Official Addresses Investment Potential *[Delhi Radio]* 59
*Overhaul of Mirage 2000 Aircraft Begins *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 7 Apr]* 59

Iran

Antirevolutionary Relative of Khamene'i Surrenders *[Tehran TV]* 59
UN Told of Cease-Fire Violations by Iraq *[IRNA]* 60
Official on Iraqi Ties, U.S. Sanctions *[Tehran TV]* 60
'Heartening Progress' Seen in Relations With Iraq *[SALAM 27 May]* 62
Attempts To Form Front With Iraq Near 'Collapse' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 May]* 62
Russian Ambassador on 'Strategic' Ties *[IRNA]* 63
Vice President Cited on Relations With China *[TEHRAN TIMES 25 May]* 64
Economic Relations With China Viewed *[TEHRAN TIMES 25 May]* 65
Rowhani Outlines Goals Pursued by Fourth Majles *[IRNA]* 65
Low-Income Taxpayers Complain About Tax Rate *[RESALAT 5 Mar]* 65
New Rates for Pipes, Tubing Published *[RESALAT 20 Apr]* 66
Vegetable Oil To Be Distributed *[RESALAT 22 Feb]* 66
Majles To Receive Report on Investigation *[RESALAT 13 Apr]* 66
Information Given on Industrial Profits *[RESALAT 18 Apr]* 67
Official Says Exports Should Be Facilitated *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Apr]* 68
Bandar-e 'Abbas Storage Capacity Expanded *[TEHRAN TIMES 3 May]* 68

Pakistan

Bhutto Says Group 'Scheming To Assassinate Her' *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Bhutto Views Karachi Violence, Indian Troops *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Attacks on Karachi Police Stations Injure 2 *[AFP]* 69
Kazakhstan Delegation Pays Official Visit 70
Discusses Crime, Narcotics Issues *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 31 May]* 70
Meets With Leghari, Views Cooperation *[Islamabad TV]* 70
Signs Pact To Combat Crime, Narcotics *[Islamabad TV]* 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

Baghdad Hosts Arab Popular Forces Conference

Hammudi Views Agenda

JN0106124595 Baghdad INA in English
1000 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 1, INA—Baghdad hosted on Thursday [1 June] 300 figures representing the intellectual and vocational trends in the Arab homeland to take part in the fourth session of the Arab popular forces conference.

Secretary General of the conference Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said that three pivots, namely, the anti-Iraq oppressive economic sanctions, the Palestinian question and other sensitive Arab issues would be tackled so as to enlighten the participants with all vital facts to promote their moves towards building pressures for lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq's people since August 1990 especially [since] Iraq had reciprocated its commitments under the Security Council resolutions.

The session will also discuss in detail dimensions and magnitude of the anti-Palestinian people conspiracy as well as the embargo imposed on Libya and the perils threatening the unity of the Yemen.

It is to be recalled that the Arab popular forces conference [was] set up in Amman in Sep. 1990 in solidarity with Iraq for confronting with the Washington-led designs.

Since its foundation, the conference held four sessions, the first in Amman in Sep. 1990, the second in Sanaa in Feb. 1991, the third in Baghdad in Oct. 1991 followed by an extraordinary session in Oct. 1992 in which 1500 more figures had taken part.

Ramadan Urges Arabs To Help Lift Blockade

JN0106145195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1240 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA) — Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, the fourth conference of Arab popular forces opened at the Conference Palace today. The conference is being held under the slogan "Lifting the Iraq Blockade Will Liberate the Will of Arabism and Constitute a Decisive Reply to Imperialist and Zionist Challenges." More than 300 figures representing popular organizations, political parties, parliamentary committees, and Arab expatriates are taking part in the three-day conference.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan to inaugurate the conference. In a speech he delivered, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: Since your extraordinary conference in October 1992, the official Arab situation has witnessed further deterioration. The enemies of the nation, including the imperialists, Zionists, anti-Arabists, and ambitious racists, have managed to capitalize on Arab divisions, fragmentation, and the submissiveness of some regimes to the will of Washington. Thus, the enemies of the nation have pursued their conspiratorial scheme, one episode after another, against this or that Arab state.

The Arabism of Jerusalem is being violated, the Palestinian identity of Jerusalem is being obliterated, and its sanctity and Islamic and Christian shrines are being violated, amid a systematic Zionist settlement drive, which is supported by U.S. imperialism. The United States did not hesitate to veto a draft resolution that was supported by 14 Security Council member states. The draft condemns Tel Aviv for the decision made by its fascist rulers to expropriate more sacred land to build settlements and Judaize the land.

The vice president said this new Zionist crime could not have been committed had it not been for the failure of the Arab League and its member states to take any unified and serious action toward this cancerous march on Palestinian and Arab land in Palestine, the Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon. The U.S. Administration has applied immense pressure to extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but excluded its strategic ally, Israel. The U.S. Administration ignores Israel's nuclear war arsenal that threatens pan-Arab security, as part of its double-standard policy in dealing with regional and international problems.

The vice president noted that the unjust 30-state aggression against the Iraq of Arabism and Islam was a prelude to this scandalous official Arab deterioration. Hence, the heinous crime committed by those who participated in the aggressive Hafar al-Batin coalition and then the unjust blockade that has been going on for 58 months. Add to this the plots against Iraq's unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity under various exposed pretexts. The U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist coalition could not have managed to besiege the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah had it not been for the serious penetration of Arab ranks and the utilization of Arab funds, lands, waters, and skies to brutally swoop on the lofty, strong Arab bastion of Iraq.

The vice president added: Thus, the agents of America, who include the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others, took advantage of this deterioration, to openly conspire against the unity of the Yemeni Republic. But the fraternal Yemeni people and their heroic Armed Forces thwarted this separatist, criminal step, to protect the objective of a comprehensive Arab unity against

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those who cast doubts on its soundness, urgency, and possible achievement.

As for fraternal Sudan, it is still under an undeclared U.S.- Atlantic blockade. It is also facing a conspiracy in the south that is targeted against the unity of its people and national soil and coming under a hostile media campaign.

Taha Yasin Ramadan went on: The United States is in control of the Gulf region's political will. We are witnessing more imperialist thirst for milking the resources of the Gulf region, stealing its oil, and draining its funds to finance unjustified arms deals, in spite of the foreign protection agreements signed with the countries of the region.

Ramadan added that Iran has taken advantage of the power imbalance to annex three Arab islands — Abu-Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra — and to realize its ambitions in the Arabian Gulf without anybody to deter it. In the same vein, he said, sick statements are coming out of Ankara demanding that the border with Iraq be redrawn after Ankara's disgraceful invasion of Iraq's territory and violation of its sovereignty.

He said: The war and siege against Iraq have brought the entire Arab nation under siege, thus weakening it politically, militarily, and economically. Moreover, the Hafar al-Batin regimes that took part in the aggression against Iraq are now weaker on international, security, and political levels than before August 1990, having shed their dignity on the thresholds of the U.S. black house and Israeli Knesset.

The vice president stressed that Iraq has fulfilled its basic obligations under the unjust UN Security Council resolutions. He said that the demands of Part C of the resolution on the destruction of banned weapons and the monitoring of the related military industry in accordance with UN Resolution 715 have been met. Iraq has also recognized Kuwait and its border in accordance with Resolution 833, Ramadan said.

He added: Therefore, there is no longer any legal, political, or moral justification to maintain the barbaric blockade against our faithful people. The UN Security Council is now obliged to reciprocate by lifting the economic blockade in accordance with Article 22 of Resolution 687 without any additional unjust conditions. Iraq is determined to attain this objective and overcome all the unjustified obstacles. Iraq is also determined to remove the pretexts of the Special Commission, whose chairman is beating about the bush to cover the U.S. conspiratorial policy which is motivated by biased political ends. Recently, our people, through all their party, parliamentary, and professional institutions, have unanimously and firmly rejected the malicious Resolution 986 and decided to protect their unity, sovereignty, and independence against all wicked, sugar-coated attempts to cover the U.S.-designed resolution with alleged humanitarian motives.

He stressed that the people of Iraq under faithful mujahid Saddam Husayn, who said the strongest "no" to the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist concentrations of injustice, aggression, and arrogance, will not trade their honor for poisoned bread. He said that Iraq will continue to adhere to its pan-Arab course and civilized cultural aspirations regardless of how long that may take or how heavy the sacrifices involved.

Addressing the conferees, Ramadan said: Every one of you is aware that the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq is an Arab blockade rather than an international or even a U.S. blockade.

Taha Yasin Ramadan urged participants in the conference to consider what can be done on the ground to break this unjust blockade, which has resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children, women, and ailing people and to living hardships visible to everyone. He said: You are free to decide whatever recommendations, resolutions, and action program to adopt. But I remind you that you are now in possession of stronger justifications and logical proof to convince the decisionmaking centers in your sisterly capitals of the urgent need to lift the inhuman siege of the Iraqi people, who have never shirked their duties toward their glorious nation in wartime and ordeals or in peacetime and prosperity.

Ramadan said that any Arab official can reinforce his position with the fact that Iraq has responded to legal and political conditions imposed on it in the name of the Security Council while, in reality, these resolutions are purely American. He added that the U.S. Administration's arrogance and its insistence on annihilating the Iraqi people in a programmed manner is a crime against humanity and a disgrace to anyone who participates in its implementation. He noted that the U.S.-British stand is not gaining the approval of the majority in the Security Council, which realizes the need to ease the embargo or lift it after Iraq has fulfilled its commitments according to Section C of Resolution 687 and more. Ramadan asked: Where are justice and fairness in not easing the embargo, even by 1 percent, after all this positive cooperation on Iraq's part with the United Nations and its inspection teams? Besides, how could the Arab rulers watch the suffering of the Iraqi people without being moved?

The vice president continued: The Arab League has proved its serious failure. Indeed, it was employed to

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continue the barbaric embargo and to justify it through pressures from America's agents, petrodollar bribes, and the grudge of the rancorous.

He added: Therefore, you must exercise all means of influence and exert effective pressure so that this institution would not remain submissive to the enemies and traitors of the nation.

Ramadan said that the Arab League bears a moral, pan-Arab, and historical responsibility toward Iraq, its founding member. He called on the Arab League to deal with the embargo in a fair and just manner. He also called on it to quickly mobilize its pan-Arab potentials and regional and international relations to expedite the lifting of the unjust embargo on Iraq after all the reasons for it have been eliminated. He said that the Arab League is demanded to quickly secure medicine, children's milk as well as urgent humanitarian and civil needs to save the children, the sick, and the elderly and to stop the American crime being perpetrated against them.

He said: Make it your main objective to demand the Arab League and the governments of its member states to officially and quickly announce an end to the embargo on Iraq after it has fulfilled its commitments to the so-called international legitimacy resolutions and to what was issued at the Cairo summit on 10 August 1990 in terms of illegitimate resolutions that contradict the Arab League Charter.

He noted that if every Arab Government wanted and had the minimum level of courage, it could adopt many measures to practically break the embargo, ease the suffering of the Iraqi people, release their frozen assets in Arab banks, resume the work of joint committees, operate flights, and cooperate in various fields.

Ramadan continued: It is regrettable that many foreign economic delegations concerned about the future of their interests in Iraq are arriving in Baghdad while official institutions, private companies, and Arab businessmen are refraining from dealing with the Iraqi market even to ascertain the prospects of cooperation after the unjust embargo is lifted.

He added: Three big Security Council member states; namely, Russia, France, and China as well as nonmember states support Iraq's fair demand for lifting the embargo. Meanwhile, four years after the cease-fire, the Arab League continues to refrain from discussing the lifting of the embargo on Iraq because it is afraid of the American master who, most regrettably, is controlling its resources and trends.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Chief Condemns 'Barbaric Actions' by Serbs

LD2705160195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1520 GMT 27 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 27 May (SPA) — Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], has condemned the savage attacks by the aggressing Serbian forces on the peaceful areas, including Sarajevo and Tuzla, which resulted in heavy losses in life and constituted a flagrant violation of the UN Security Council resolutions that were adopted in this regard. In a statement issued today, the secretary general expressed the organization's profound anxiety over the renewed barbaric actions by the Serbian forces in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He expressed hope that the Security Council and NATO would frustrate all Serbian attempts by adopting effective punitive measures against the Bosnian Serbs for having defied all principles of international law. Dr. Algabid denounced the criminal acts by the Serbian forces in capturing men of the UN Protection Forces and using them as human shields.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 23 May

NC2705102195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 23 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writers Berate Israeli Decision on Jerusalem, U.S. Veto

WRITERS BERATE ISRAELI DECISION ON JERUSALEM, U.S. VETO

This issue of 'AQIDATI features several reports, articles, and columns on the Israeli expropriation of land in Jerusalem and the U.S. veto against the Security Council resolution on the issue. A 2,000-word report on page 1, 14, and 15 cites prominent Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali as saying that the "attempts to Judaize Jerusalem mean a declaration of war on the Islamic world and the demolition of the al-Aqsa Mosque in the city would mean the demolition of every mosque in all towns and villages in the Islamic World." The same report includes an interview with Al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq. Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq says that the Islamic nation is facing a difficult test to confront aggression against the land and honor. He maintains that Jerusalem is a trust in the hands of the Islamic nation leaders. He emphasizes that all the

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Arab and Islamic organizations must unify their efforts to save Jerusalem and preserve its Arab and Islamic identity. He argues that it is up to the leaders of the Arab and Islamic nation to take action as the peoples are eager for an action to unite the nation so it can stand up to the challenges, now that the United States has clearly shown its real stance. He says that the United States is publicly supporting Israel while turning a blind eye to the aggressors against the Bosnians and Chechens.

In a 300-word column "Verily I Say" on page 1, Board Chairman Samir Rajab says that Israel and the United States considered the issue of Jerusalem to be over. Israel expropriated the land, he says, and the United States "supported and blessed" the move and used the veto. The victim may again resort to the Security Council but nobody will care. Rajab wonders what the Muslims have done and answers that silence reigns supreme. He urges the people to arise and take action to defend their religion and honor and not accept this "humiliation." He asks if anyone could relinquish the al-Aqsa Mosque and stresses that while the holy mosque is being usurped the Muslims are merely looking on. He says he imagined that the Arabs and Muslims would hasten to send envoys to all countries of the world to expose the Israelis and Americans with the legal and conclusive proof and charters they have.

In a 500-word column entitled "Challenges Before the Summit" on page 6, Basyuni al-Halawani says history has never seen such oppressive campaigns against Islam and Muslims in several parts of the world under international protection. He says that while campaigns of annihilation are continuing against Muslims in Bosnia, the United States and the civilized Western nations give the Serbs the green light to commit further acts of aggression against the Muslims to exterminate them. He claims the Muslims compete with one another in highlighting the latest Serb crimes against the Bosnian Muslims, but without taking any action. In Chechnya, the Russians are using all types of weapons to finish off the Muslims there while the Islamic nation maintains good and fraternal ties with the Russian Government. In Kashmir, the Indian Government persecutes Muslims and the Hindus destroy mosques while the Islamic countries maintain good relations with the Indian Government. The Israeli Government expresses a desire to see the peace process continue while it decides to expropriate what is left of Palestinian land in Jerusalem. This is the biggest theft in history, "thanks to the protection of the Clinton's Administration." President Clinton was annoyed when a group of Libyans traveled to Mecca to make the pilgrimage, but he did not move to save the Muslims from annihilation in Bosnia, Chechnya, and Kashmir.

Commenting on the same theme in a 650-word column entitled "What Are We Going To Do?" on page 8, Majdi Salim says that U.S. "collusion," Israeli intransigence, and the Arab disarray will not allow the Arab leaders to make a bold decision, such as abolishing the normalization of ties with Israel or boycotting the Untied States. He says that no Arab will accept the status quo, Israeli desire, or U.S. absolute support for Israel. He notes that there is no longer any other superpower that can influence Israel or the United States, as was the case before. The only option left for the Arabs is to rely on themselves and to "withdraw the power of attorney" that they have given to the Untied States to mediate on their behalf in their issues, now that we have discovered "its betrayal of the trust" that we gave it. He argues that the Arabs still have economic cards to play, such as the economic boycott of Israel and pressure on Europe and Japan. Another important card is the Islamic World, which has rights in Jerusalem.

In an approximately 3,000 word report covering most of pages 12 and 13, Hamdi Handal elaborates on the measures the Israeli Government, organizations, and various groups have taken in Jerusalem to Judaize the city. He notes that Israel resorted to all possible means to harass and terrorize the Arab population of the city, buy their property, or evict them from Jerusalem to obliterate its Arab and Islamic character. He notes the "unethical international efforts" to move embassies to Jerusalem with total support of "blind" U.S. policy. He stresses the continuing Israeli digging and drilling under the old city, particularly near and under the al-Aqsa Mosque, noting that the extremist Jews do not hide their designs to seize it. He says Israel is not content with the occupation of Jerusalem and surrounding it with thousands of housing units and settlements, it is eliciting international support that recognizes Israel's right to seize all Arab land. He notes that supporters of Israel publicly acknowledge the similarity in the circumstances that led to the establishment of the Untied States and Israel. He maintains that the United States, with its moral, political, and cultural identity, behaves toward and views Israel as a U.S. national interest. So why are we asking why the United States used the veto against the international will that rejected Israel's decision to expropriate 53 hectares of Arab land in Jerusalem?

A 750-word column on page 13 by Majdi Salim says that the U.S. veto at the Security Council against the draft resolution demanding that Israel rescind its decision to expropriate Arab land in Jerusalem is not the "first blow that the United States has dealt to Islam, Muslims, and Arabs." It is a step that followed other similar steps and will still be followed by many steps,

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such as passing a resolution sooner or later to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He notes that at a "public auction," U.S. officials vied with one another to please Israel to the point that they looked "more Catholic than the pope." He notes that reports from Washington showed that the U.S. Congressmen's proposal to move the embassy to Jerusalem created divisions among the traditional allies of Israel and placed the U.S. Jewish lobby in a weird position.

In a 300-word column on page 20, Majdi Salim notes that while Israel is implementing its "plot" to Judaize Jerusalem and demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Muslims and Arabs are content with statements of condemnation and denunciation and nothing more. He argues that while Israeli Prime Minister Rabin insolently declares that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and that this issue is not negotiable, the Arabs and Muslims seek to see a statement passed by the Security Council condemning the Israeli measures. He warns that we are faced with the serious danger of the complete Judaization of the city and the demolition of the al-Aqsa Mosque within four years. He claims that we are not only faced with one problem but several ones that are aimed at diverting the attention of the whole region to entrench the status quo. Given this situation, he says, resolutions, statements, or contacts will be to no avail because the major plot would have been implemented "with the U.S. blessing." He says we are not only faced with a Zionist scheme but an international one aimed at obliterating every Islamic feature. He calls for deterring the Israeli measures in Jerusalem and standing firm against moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Central Committee Discusses Peace Process

Agrees To Continue Talks With Israel

TA0106165295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following this afternoon's meeting of the Fatah Central Committee, chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, responsible PLO sources in Tunis said that the meeting's participants agreed to continue the peace talks with Israel despite the existing differences between Israel and the Palestinians over the expansion of the Palestinian Authority's powers.

The sources explained that the PLO is inclined to give Israel another chance to honor its pledge with regard to 1 July as the date for concluding the interim stage talks. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat is expected to chair the PLO Executive Committee meetings later this evening or tomorrow.

Hears Results of 'Arafat-Peres Talks

JN0106201695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Executive Committee will hold a meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis tonight.

Meanwhile, the Fatah Central Committee concluded its meeting this evening. It will meet again tomorrow, Friday.

In this context, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said the Central Committee meeting took place in a comfortable and positive atmosphere. Sha'th said that during the first session, President 'Arafat briefed conferees on the results of his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. President 'Arafat also talked about the status of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the obstacles hindering the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

President 'Arafat briefed the 12 PLO Executive Committee members who attended the session on the results of his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Algerian President Lamine Zeroual, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

People's Party Boycotts Executive Committee Meetings

TA0106144795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 May 95 p 4

[Report by Zaki Abu-al-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — The Palestinian People's Party Political Bureau has called for postponing the PLO Executive Committee meeting slated for 1 June. It also called for preparations to launch a serious dialogue aimed at restoring and activating the Executive Committee's role.

In a press release issued yesterday, the Political Bureau expressed its readiness to engage in such a dialogue and said that it is suspending its representatives' participation in the Executive Committee's meetings until this dialogue takes place. [passage omitted]

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Al-Husayni: Arabs Should Use Ties To Influence Israel

NC0206103895 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 31-35 May 95 p 4

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority official in charge of Jerusalem Affairs, by Shirin Baha'; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transliterated Excerpt] [Baha'] What is your reaction to Israel's decision to freeze its plans to confiscate Palestinian land in Arab East Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] It is a positive step in the right direction, but Israel has to call a halt to its earlier decisions and stop the settlement building process. Any brick laid down for the erection of a new settlement will contradict this decision.

[Baha'] What is the real reason behind the Israeli decision? Is it because of the action of Arab members of the Knesset, supported by the Likud Party or because of the proposed Arab summit?

[Al-Husayni] I think it is a combination of the two factors. The recent actions of the Palestinians, Arabs and international community played a crucial role in the Israeli cabinet's change of mind along with the Likud's attempt to blackmail its rival, the Labour Party. Likud threatened to vote with the Arab members of the Knesset against the confiscations, even though Likud is widely known for its approval of the Judaisation of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Baha'] By suspending talks the Palestinians succeeded in pushing Israel to accept the early return of Palestinians deported to Marj Al-Zuhur in Lebanon in 1992. Can you do the same again?

[Al-Husayni] Talks at that time had not reached the stage where Israel committed itself to giving up some of the lands it had occupied. I do not believe that we should start by freezing the bilateral talks. What talks can we halt? Talks in which we are pressing Israel to redeploy its army? Or the talks on a secure road between Gaza and Jericho? Shall we halt talks on the elections? We are not in a position where we can suspend the talks. I do not want to look like one who is shooting himself in the foot: Israel would like to get out of the talks but we are pressing them, asking them, to come to the talks and discuss our issues.

But, of course, we can affect Israel through the multilateral talks. It is within these multilateral talks that Israel is trying to increase the pace of normalisation with Arab countries. I think that the Arabs now have an important card to play. They can play down their relationship with Israel or even cut it altogether. This is all there is; Israel does not fear either our missiles or rockets, it does not even give a damn about UN Security Council resolutions. It wants to open the door into the Arab world. This is in the hands of the Arabs.

[Baha'] How do you see the fluctuations in Rabin's policies? Are they election tactics or is this Labour Party strategy?

[Al-Husayni] I think that Rabin is doing this in the belief that it might help him win the coming elections. But, on the contrary, this will destroy any hope of him winning the Israeli citizen's vote. The Israelis chose Rabin because they wanted to have peace with the Arabs and not because they want him (to perform) the role of the rightist Likud Party. If Rabin is trying to follow the right, the Israeli citizen would be wise to choose the original, the Likud, rather than the forged copy.

[Baha'] This means that the alternative is the rightist Likud Party, an option not welcomed by Arabs.

[Al-Husayni] Rabin is not much better than (the Likud leader) Netanyahu. He is trying to apply Likud policy. We are not fond of Rabin nor his party, but we liked his political agenda. But if the one which is applied is Likud's, then let us negotiate with the Likud.

[Baha'] Don't you think that the best thing for the Palestinians is to establish a unified front including all groups?

[Al-Husayni] We have already undergone a series of talks and meetings for this purpose. There are events going on now in the Occupied Territories similar to the climate of 1986/87 and the beginning of the Intifadah. So something new may emerge!

Al-Husayni Estimate on W. Jerusalem Property 'Low'

TA0206105195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian officials are gathering documents to back up their claim to most of the land in western Jerusalem, to counter Israeli claims to land in eastern Jerusalem.

Khalil Tufakji, of the Jerusalem-based Palestine Geographic Center, said yesterday that PLO official Faysal al-Husayni had presented a low estimate when he said that 70 percent of western Jerusalem is Arab-owned land.

Tufakji said al-Husayni only included land that was part of west Jerusalem just after the 1948 Armistice. If land

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west of the city that was later annexed was included, he said, the area of Arab owned land is over 80 percent.

A map of Jerusalem published in the early 1950s by the New York-based Palestine Arab Refugee Office was used by al-Husayni to base his claim to 70 percent of western Jerusalem, according to Tufakji.

The key on the map states that of 16,261 dunams in "Israel-occupied Jerusalem," 33.69 percent is Arab-owned, 30.04 percent Jewish-owned, 15.21 percent Christian church land, 2.47 percent government and municipality land, and 18.59 percent roads and railways.

Tufakji said that al-Husayni counted as Arab all the land except that specified as Jewish-owned.

Land belonging to the villages of 'En Kerem, Malha, al-Walaja, Lifta, Qaluniya, Dayr Yasin and Bayt Safafa were later annexed to the city, and bring the percentage of Arab-owned land to over 80 percent, according to Tufakji.

"If Israel continues to claim lands in east Jerusalem, it must realize that we also have claims to land in west Jerusalem," Tufakji told the POST.

"We have begun gathering the documents that support our claims," added Tufakji, who was called to New York City last month by the Palestinian Authority to help coordinate its campaign at the United Nations against the Jerusalem land expropriations.

Qaddumi Reportedly Meets With Fatah Dissidents

NC0106122395 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Jun 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad Salih in Sidon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources have told AL-SAFIR that PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi met during his recent visit to Beirut with Munir al-Maqdah, leader of the dissidents from Yasir 'Arafat's leadership, in a Beirut hotel. Qaddumi visited Syria and Lebanon to boost efforts aimed at foiling the Oslo Agreement.

The sources said Qaddumi was leading a delegation of Fatah leaders opposed to Yasir 'Arafat and the Oslo Agreement. Prominent among its members was Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki. Qaddumi left Beirut Thursday [25 June].

The sources said that the talks that Qaddumi and Zaki held in Lebanon and Syria aimed "at closing Palestinian ranks and grouping the Damascus-based Palestinian factions and Fatah oppositionists and dissidents from 'Arafat's leadership in one framework as one of the means to confront the Oslo Agreement. Chief among them is a return to armed struggle, a return to the charter that launched the PLO, and getting all factions to join the organization. [no closing quotes as published]

The sources said the meeting between Qaddumi and al-Maqdah, which was the first between the two, was shrouded by full secrecy. It was held in a Beirut hotel and attended by six officials who are opponents to and dissidents from 'Arafat's leadership and to the Oslo agreement.

The sources explained that al-Maqdah, who led the delegation of "Fatah for the Liberation of All Palestine" [fath litahrir kul filastin] held two meetings. The first was with Qaddumi, where an expanded discussion of the general situation of the PLO, especially the political situation, was held. Qaddumi informed al-Maqdah and his delegation of the results of his meetings in the Syrian capital. He stressed "the need to boost relations with Syria and to revive PLO institutions through the participation of all Palestinian factions and sides, especially after Yasir 'Arafat took his chance. That was a long chance, but experience has proved the failure of the Oslo Agreement and its contents."

The sources cited Qaddumi as adding: Therefore, the PLO must return strong, as it was, the terms of reference for the Palestinian people and their choice in their homeland, Palestine.

The second meeting was with 'Abbas Zaki. In this meeting, the situation of Fatah inside and outside the occupied territories, and the reorganization of the movement and all its political programs, were discussed. Zaki proposed "restoration of the unity of Fatah's leadership and decision and the return to armed struggle inside the occupied territories." He made many observations about the situation of the Oslo Agreement, saying that it "will fall as days pass, and it is unable to survive given the growing Israeli intransigence, arrogance, and monopoly on decisionmaking. The rightful owner cannot be at the same level with the usurper of the land."

The sources added: For his part, Munir al-Maqdah called for speedy, but not hasty, reunification of Fatah under one leadership inside and outside the occupied territories with a view to foiling the Oslo Agreement and adhering to the statement that first launched the movement.

Al-Maqdah noted the arrest of about 40 members of the "Fatah for the Liberation of All Palestine" by the Israeli enemy and 'Arafat's self-rule authority in Gaza, Jericho, the West Bank and Hebron. They were charged with launching attacks against the enemy and planning to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat and one of his officials, al-Hajj Isma'il.

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Al-Maqdah also discussed the difficult conditions experienced by the Palestinian people in Lebanon's camps as a result of economic hardship, rare job opportunities, high unemployment, and closure of the PLO social and humanitarian establishments that used to look after families of martyrs and handicapped.

Al-Maqdah blamed 'Arafat for the blockade imposed on the Palestinian people, and he called on the Lebanese Government to grant Palestinians in Lebanon their civic, political, and human rights.

The meeting ended "with an agreement to meet again at another date and to continue meetings in Lebanon and abroad to find the common denominators that unite Fatah."

In another development, a meeting was held yesterday between Colonel Munir al-Maqdah and Mustafa al-Liddawi, an official from Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Fatah sources said the two sides agreed to coordinate and cooperate at all levels inside the occupied territories.

'Urayqat: No Elections Without Israeli Redeployment

JN0106145895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to negotiations with the Israeli side on legislative elections, has said that elections will not be held if Israeli occupation forces are not redeployed outside inhabited areas.

In a statement to Voice of Palestine, 'Urayqat added that the issue of Jerusalem and its citizens' right to participate in the elections will remain on the agenda of these meetings. The head of the Palestinian delegation said that the Palestinian side insists on a list of voters and another of candidates in Jerusalem as well as free election campaigns, voting, and vote counting in the holy city just like other polling stations in the Palestinian territories.

Abu-'Ayyash on Radio, TV Transmission Agreement

JN0106180395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1150 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation, by Ibrahim Milhim on 1 June; place not given; from the "Today's Events" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Milhim] Good evening.

[Abu-'Ayyash] Good evening.

[Milhim] Yesterday, you participated in the talks on power transfer, particularly in the field of radio and television. Did the talks go well?

[Abu-'Ayyash] In fact, we did not reach agreement on all the topics on the agenda. Regarding communications, however, we reached an unsigned agreement. Some unresolved points delayed the signing of the agreement, which, we hope, will be signed in the next round of talks. Regarding television and radio transmission, a complete agreement has been reached and will be signed. According to this agreement, we have the right to install television and radio transmission equipment in Ramallah. We also might use the site which has been occupied by Israel since 1967 to install our transmission equipment. Furthermore, we resolved all the suspended technical problems.

[Milhim] What are the differences which delay radio and television transmission from Ramallah?

[Abu-'Ayyash] There are no longer any differences regarding television and radio transmission from Ramallah. As you know, radio and television transmission is an integral part of the communications agreement in general. The problem is not over television transmission, but over the bases of communications in general. There is a hot discussion regarding this issue, and we hope that an agreement will be signed next week when the talks resume on Wednesday [7 June].

[Milhim] Will the Palestinian Television cover the deployment of the Palestinian forces in the West Bank following the withdrawal of the Israeli forces on 1 July?

[Aby-'Ayyash] Certainly we will be able to cover the deployment. We work round the clock in many areas. We hope our radio and television transmission will cover the entire homeland on 15 July. We will also double our efforts to cover this event which our people are waiting for. I would like to say that all problems related to television and radio transmission will be resolved. After the signing of the agreement, we will be able to begin transmission immediately. Preparations are under way, and I can say that we have reached agreement on this issue, while the other issues are still under discussion.

[Milhim] Has a date been set for the resumption of talks?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I believe the talks will resume on Wednesday [7 June]. I believe that an agreement will be signed in the coming round of talks. [passage omitted]

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Palestinian Investment Bank Opens in Jericho

TA0106165895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The first branch of the Palestinian Investment Bank opened today in Jericho. The bank has an endowment of about $10 million. It will be used for loans to fund industrial, agricultural, and tourism projects in the territories.

PA Seeks Deal To Release All Hamas, Jihad Prisoners

TA0206110495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has indicated that it will release from prison all the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members it is currently holding, including those who have been convicted by the State Security court in Gaza, if an agreement can be reached on a halt of terrorist attacks emanating from Jericho, according to Peace Watch.

A senior Hamas official told Peace Watch on May 18 that the PA had agreed in negotiations to set free all the organization's members who are currently being held, including those already convicted. The Hamas official quoted a PA negotiator as saying, "The trials and arrests will stop immediately once there is an agreement, and all those tried will be released, either by amnesty or through some other means."

This claim was supported by a senior Palestinian police officer in a recent interview with Peace Watch. "One should learn a lesson from the talks with Israel, in which the freeing of prisoners was a condition of the Palestinian Authority," he said. "Is it logical that the opposition would reach an agreement with you, and that it would leave its prisoners in your hands?"

So far, 23 members of opposition parties have been tried and convicted by the Gaza court. Of those, 15 were members of Hamas and four belonged to Islamic Jihad. Peace Watch sources estimate that some 100 Hamas and Islamic Jihad members remain in the custody of the PA police.

Hamas on 'Oppressive Measures' by Jordan, 'Arafat

NC0206080895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, has declared that the pressures being put on the movement in Jordan and Palestine, including the deportation of leaders and arrest of mujahidin, will be borne patiently. He added that the movement remains determined to keep up its march.

Ghawshah linked Jordan's recent deporting of two Hamas leaders with the recently intensified efforts on the part of 'Arafat and his Authority to tighten the noose around the movement and restrain it. He pointed out that the major source of pressure on Jordan to restrain Hamas activity is the Zionist entity.

Ghawshah told the Voice of the Oppressed that the Arab and Muslim people in general and the Jordanian people in particular sympathize with Hamas and its holy jihad on the sacred soil of Palestine. He said that oppressive measures are escalating against those opposed to the capitulationist agreements. What is important is for the mujahidin and the true nationalists to bear up, because this is a battle to determine who resists the Jews and who tolerates the Jewish presence, he said.

The Hamas spokesman concluded that the oppressive measures against the mujahidin will only increase their firmness and determination to honor the promise and keep up the march. We are certain that victory will soon come from the Almighty, he said.

Shaykh Yasin on Relations With PA, Israel

TA0206120295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 2 Jun 95 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin by correspondent 'Oded Granot at the Ashmoret prison "during 'Id al-Adha"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Granot] One could say that Israel made a mistake when it allowed your organization to operate and even helped it out, since in 1987 it gave rise to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as a terror movement.

[Yasin] The Islamic Society was a social movement, whereas Hamas is a political movement of resistance to the occupation. We did not receive any assistance from Israel, not a cent. The only thing Israel did was allow us to register legally.

[Granot] Hamas receives assistance from outside the territories, from the Arab countries and Iran.

[Yasin] All of Hamas's funds come from the Palestinian people. We do not receive money from any government or government source, either Arab or otherwise.

[Granot] But other Islamic organizations do. Hizballah does.

[Yasin] Hizballah is an Iranian organization.

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[Granot] But you and the Iranians share the common goal of imposing the Islamic religion.

[Yasin] I do not need the cooperation of any government. If the Iranians offer us help we will not reject it, but that does not mean that they are helping us.

[Granot] Does Iran not finance Hamas terror attacks?

[Yasin] Such talk is empty and untrue. It has become a habit with you to blame Iran for everything.

[Granot] Did you hear the echoes of the lethal bombing in Bet Lid? It happened just on the other side of the road, a few dozen meters from your cell (the bombing was perpetrated by Islamic Jihad, Hamas' rival — author's note).

[Yasin] I heard it, but I did not really understand what was happening. I only saw it later on television.

[Granot] What did you feel?

[Yasin] Pain.

[Granot] Why?

[Yasin] Because blood was shed, because it was unnecessary.

[Granot] The blood of innocent people was shed.

[Yasin] You say that. The question is: Who is the aggressor? You cannot call armed soldiers innocent people. Palestinian women and children are also innocent people.

[Granot] Although you felt pain, it did not occur to you that the time had come to issue from this jail an order to stop the killing.

[Yasin] As soon as we get our deserved rights. You want to take everything we own from us. When you treat us justly we will treat you justly.

[Granot] If you agreed to denounce the violence perhaps you would have been out of here long ago.

[Yasin] Do not ask me to denounce the violence. I cannot do that as long as I am under occupation. A halt to violence must be mutual.

[Granot] How would you describe current relations between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA]?

[Yasin] At the moment there is an unwritten cease-fire.

[Granot] Is there an ideological abyss between you and the PLO?

[Yasin] I will try to persuade 'Arafat of the justness of our way, but not by force.

[Granot] Is coexistence with the PA possible?

[Yasin] It is both possible and impossible. Coexistence is possible only on the condition that the PA does not engage in hostilities against Hamas. However, if it opens fire there is no chance of coexistence because then the PA would be regarded as an arm of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and we would have to fight it the same way we fight the Jews.

[Granot] The ongoing assessment is that as progress is being made toward the implementation of the interim arrangement so do the chances increase of an armed confrontation between Hamas and the PA.

[Yasin] Under no circumstances or situation will there be such a confrontation. Such a thing must not happen.

[Granot] Even if your weapons are taken away by force?

[Yasin] Every possible way must be sought to avert such a confrontation. We are not interested in an internal fight with the PA.

[Granot] But ultimately your goals are different.

[Yasin] Our goals are not all that different. We can reach an accord. What is most important to us is to bring an end to the Israeli occupation of the territories. The fact is that when 'Arafat came to Gaza we did not stand in his way or try to hinder him. We are not opposed to the establishment of a state in the territories. When such a state is established we will support it. Hamas will not be in the opposition.

[Granot] Will the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories lead to a halt in Hamas terror attacks against Israel?

[Yasin] The moment there is a state, the settlements are evacuated, and Jerusalem is returned military actions will cease. As long as the occupation persists we will go ahead with such actions.

[Granot] You say you will make do with a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, but the Hamas charter of 1988 talks about a state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

[Yasin] The issue is more complicated than just borders and 1 or 2 million Palestinians in the territories. There are another 4 million Palestinians living in the diaspora.

[Granot] The PLO has already agreed to the principle of two states alongside each other, a Palestinian state and a Jewish one.

[Yasin] The PLO had no other choice.

[Granot] Should we infer from what you are saying that even after a pullout from the territories there is no chance of peace between Hamas and Israel?

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[Yasin] One could talk about an agreement for a limited period, say 15 years, not about a peace agreement forever.

[Granot] Why not forever?

[Yasin] Because I cannot commit the next generations to it. They will have to make up their own mind.

[Granot] And what will happen after 10 or 15 years?

[Yasin] Most probably the agreement will be renewed automatically.

[Granot] What do you think will happen in the territories in the permanent arrangement?

[Yasin] Israel may evacuate one or two settlements, but most of the settlements will be left intact.

[Granot] Meanwhile, what are the chances of your taking part in the elections for the autonomy council?

[Yasin] The terms of the elections will determine whether we take part or boycott them. It mainly depends on whether these will be democratic elections.

[Granot] Is there a chance of Hamas' becoming a party?

[Yasin] In the proper political conditions, why not? But there is no way it will happen under Israeli occupation.

[Granot] If you participate in the elections, does that mean that Hamas would also be willing to take part in governing?

[Yasin] We would be willing to participate in the legislative or judicial branches, but there is no way we would take part in the executive branch.

[Granot] Why?

[Yasin] Because this is the branch that plans to execute the Oslo agreement, which we oppose. How could we execute an agreement we did not sign and we do not want?

[Granot] There are rumors that outside pressure is being exerted on Hamas not to reach any accords or understandings with 'Arafat.

[Yasin] No outside pressure is being exerted on us.

[Granot] How do you respond to the argument that Hamas terror attacks only hold back the peace process and increase the Likud's chances of winning the elections and stopping the Oslo process?

[Yasin] If the Likud rises to power it will follow in Labor's footsteps and pursue the Oslo process. Do not forget that the Likud went to the Madrid conference.

[Granot] One of the arguments against your early release from prison is the fear that you might encourage your people to step up the acts of violence.

[Yasin] Reality proves the contrary. It has transpired so far that it is my imprisonment that encourages suicide attacks.

Hamas Explosive Expert Flees to 'Arab Country'

NC0106061795 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 20 May 95 p 14

[Report by Ghassan Wahbah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yahya 'Ayyash, one of the most prominent of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military leaders and explosive experts on the run from the Israeli authorities, who consider him to be directly responsible for most explosions and suicide operations in the occupied territories, has left Palestine for an Arab country. According to Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip, slogans were painted on walls in the al-Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza that said that 'Ayyash, nicknamed "the engineer," who has been chased by the Israeli authorities for more than three years, has succeeded in reaching an Arab country. The wall graffiti says: "Hamas congratulates the Palestinian people on the success of brother struggler Yahya 'Ayyash in reaching an Arab country safe and sound." It does not say anything about the date or place of his departure.

Israeli leaders have described the engineer—who comes from the village of Rafat near Nabulus in north West Bank—as their most wanted man. The Israeli authorities have tried to assassinate him more than once; the latest attempt being the detonation at a home in al-Shaykh Radwan quarter, but he left the home 20 minutes before the blast.

Asked whether 'Ayyash's departure from Palestine would adversely affect the activities of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam groups [Hamas' military wing], Hamas representative in Lebanon Mustafa al-Liddawi, said that every era has its men but the fate of a homeland does not depend on one man. He said 'Imad 'Aql came before 'Ayyash and dozens other before both of them; and many others will arise.

Al-Liddawi asserted that there was no security deal between Hamas and the Palestinian police on 'Ayyash's departure, saying that many Hamas members leave the homeland if their presence becomes inappropriate. He said that every struggler has the option of detention, martyrdom, or departure. This applied to struggler 'Ayyyas, who was under strict observation and whose only choice was to leave Palestine. Al-Liddawi declined to mention the Arab country where 'Ayyas has gone.

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Islamic Jihad Split Story Called 'a Fabrication'

MM0206103895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Islamic Jihad Leaders Deny Movement Split"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah [its founder] have denied a "split" or the existence of "two trends" in the movement under their respective leaderships, but they did mention "plurality of views and opinions" in the movement. The first challenged the dissidents, "if they do exist, to announce their withdrawal" from the movement.

Al-Shaqaqi told AL-HAYAH: "There is no Islamic or Palestinian movement with a leadership as united as that of the Islamic Jihad." Shaykh 'Awdah, in a statement to AL-HAYAH, reaffirmed his insistence on "unity." He said: "I do not support fragmentation."

Fundamentalist sources and other sources close to Shaykh 'Awdah had said in statements to AL-HAYAH in Beirut that there was a split in the Islamic Jihad because of "personal and political differences" between 'Awdah and al-Shaqaqi.

The movement's secretary general said that "all members of the Shura Council are still in their positions. No one inside or outside Palestine has resigned. If there is a split, we challenge its protagonists to announce the dissidents' names so that the public know who they are. If there is a split, where are the dissidents?" But al-Shaqaqi did not deny the existence of multiple views. He said: "As a rejuvenating force in the framework of Islamic action and Palestinian political action, we believe in the importance of plurality of views and opinions and of freedom of expression. I personally respect and am proud of those who come up with new ideas. I often accept views that are different from mine." He explained that "plurality of views is very much a fact, but it is absolutely not true that there are two political trends within the movement."

Al-Shaqaqi drew a distinction between "differences of opinion" and "different trends." He said: "The second is really nonexistent, because the movement is united on all strategic issues including the Zionist occupation, the Oslo agreement, the Authority of (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat, the continuation of the jihad throughout Palestine, the movement's relations with the Arab and Islamic parties, and its alliances within the Palestinian arena." He added: "We maintain one line on all these matters."

On the movement's decisionmaking, al-Shaqaqi said that "the general congress (of the movement) draws up the general basis of its policies as well as its organizational bylaws and the Central Shura Council, in cooperation with local Shura councils, implements these policies. The movement's decisions are made by the Shura Council by majority." Al-Shaqaqi accused "several parties" of being behind "the declared offensive against us." He added: "I do not want to give specific names today, but these parties are annoyed by the movement's steadfastness, cohesion, firmness, and unbreakable spirit despite all plots."

Answering claims about a deal between the movement and the Palestinian Authority [PA] after their negotiations at home, the movement's secretary general said: "There is no dialogue with 'Arafat. All that happened was that there was tension after the Kefar Darom and Nitsarim operations because of the ferocious arrest campaign launched against the Islamists. So some contacts were held between the parties concerned, including contacts between the movement and Authority officials, to stop the arrest campaign and ease the tension." He added that the announcement by people close to 'Arafat about agreement being reached between the Authority and Islamic Jihad had led to the suspension of all meetings and dialogues. "The dialogue has stopped despite their continuous insistence. The meetings have no political character. Meeting with the Oslo team is impossible." Confirming his support for "unity of the movement" and the existence of "differences of opinion" between al-Shaqaqi and others on the one hand and himself on the other, Shaykh 'Awdah said that "the differences do not reach the point of having different trends, and I hope that they will be resolved within the movement."

'Awdah urged the secretary general "to come up with initiatives for the consolidation of unity with the other brothers to preserve the movement's unity and avoid being dragged into other differences." He denied that Taysir al-Khatib had resigned from the movement's Shura Council.

Sources close to Islamic Jihad have told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that Shaykh 'Awdah "is a brother and a friend but has no particular organizational position in the movement and has not engaged in any political activity for some time for personal reasons."

Yesterday AL-HAYAH in London received a telephone call from Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, one of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, commenting on AL-HAYAH's report yesterday about "a split in Islamic Jihad between the 'Awdah and al-Shaqaqi trends."

Al-Shami emphasized that the movement's leadership "is united at home and abroad." He asked: "Who are the

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leaders who have resigned from the movement's Shura Council?" Al-Shami, who was speaking from Gaza, said that the report was "a fabrication and lacked credibility."

AL-HAYAH also received a clarification from Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam, one of the movement's leaders, which said:

"1. The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has never been stronger or more united than it is now. Most observers can discern that. The movement is enjoying a state of harmony between its grass roots and its leaderships and symbols headed by Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. That is why we find these suspect reports strange.

"2. There have been no resignations from the movement's Shura Council at home or abroad, and we challenge anyone to come forward and say that he is resigning or has resigned from the movement.

"3. Regarding the release of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, that release was natural because there was no justification for his detention anyway and there was no evidence against him on any charge. So naturally he had to be released. There were no deals.

"4. Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi is the top official in charge of all the movement's organs at home and abroad, including its Qasam military wing. What Dr. Fathi says is binding on all of us and expresses the essence of our positions and views.

"5. As regards the statements published by AL-HAYAH, we categorically declare that they are statements by suspect people, and we ask why they have not given their names. We ask them to identify themselves so that our people know that they are suspect."

PFLP, DFLP on Banning of Conference in Amman

TA3105155495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 30 May 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The official spokesman of the Unified Central Command [UCC] of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stated that the Jordanian authorities' banning of the antinormalization popular conference in Amman, which was slated to be held yesterday, indicates that these authorities are again resorting to martial methods in dealing with the widespread popular and parliamentary opposition to the treaty and normalization with Israel. This justifies fears that what has remained of democratic freedoms in Jordan will be curtailed.

The UCC called for holding a comprehensive antinormalization pan-Arab conference at a suitable venue that will allow popular forces, organizations, and masses to express their views freely about all agreements and normalization with Israel.

PFLP-GC Criticizes Self-Rule Authority Actions

JN0531211995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 May 95

[Statement by "a responsible source of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 30 May 1995, elements belonging to the so-called General Intelligence of the limited self-rule authority came to the office of a PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] official in Ramallah, surrounded the building under the nose of the authorities and soldiers of the enemy, and met with the PFLP-GC official without any prior notification. They threatened him, and said that they had managed to destroy Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], and that they would not allow anybody to give them trouble. They also threatened to take other measures in the future.

The PFLP-GC announces to the Palestinian and Arab public opinions that it will not be drawn into provocations that will not serve any side except the Zionist enemy, and that it will not be pushed into clashes because our people do not need them. At the same time, the front announces that it will not allow any encroachment by the authority's organs on the freedom and good name of the strugglers. The one who starts trouble is more of a tyrant than the retaliator.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Two PPSF Offices in Damascus Reportedly Closed

JN0106173195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jericho, the Self-Rule, QUDS PRESS — A Palestinian source in Jericho, which is under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Self-Rule Authority, has said that the Syrian Government has recently closed two offices belonging to one of the Palestinian factions that has participated in the Palestinian Self-Rule cabinet.

The source, which preferred anonymity, told QUDS PRESS that the Syrian security agencies told the representative of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] in Syria that they have decided to close the front's offices in al-Yarmuk Camp and Latakia Camp

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and not allow them to carry out any official or public activities, without giving any reasons.

The source said the Syrian measure was taken because the PPSF joined the Palestinian Authority. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the PPSF, is labor minister in the Palestinian Authority's Cabinet.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Fatah Source on Difficulties in 'Janin First' Talks

TA0106101495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Fatah source in the West Bank said that the negotiations over the Janin First proposal have run into difficulties because Israel is only prepared to hand over the town and its adjoining refugee camp to the Palestinians while refusing to withdraw from all the Janin area.

The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that two representatives from Janin have recently joined the negotiations on this issue. The two men are (Ziyad Habil Ruh), the head of Fatah in Janin and Hikmat al-Kilani, the former PLO ambassador to Hungary. The representatives of the Palestinian security services were summoned to Jericho today for consultations on the Janin First plan.

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Algeria

'Sources' See U.S. Shifting Ground on Armed Groups

MM3105153995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 May 95 p 6

[Report by Rashid Khashanah: "Algeria Expects Washington To Change Its Position on Armed Groups"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis — Algerian political sources have told AL-HAYAH that, since the explosion which rocked the U.S. city of Oklahoma, Algeria has been noticing signs of change in the U.S. attitude toward the armed groups and that it intends to take diplomatic initiatives to encourage the White House and the State Department to change their position on the current conflict in Algeria.

The sources stressed that the positions of many decisionmakers in U.S. official institutions have shifted from the option of containing the armed Islamic groups and movements in Algeria to that of treating them with extreme caution.

They linked the Oklahoma explosion, "which was the straw which broke the camel's back," to the recent statement by the U.S. State Department spokesman saying that it was the duty [of the United States] to help the countries which fight terrorism and that "the United States harbors great respect for the Algerian Government," a stance not previously taken by the United States since the outbreak of fighting between the Army and the armed groups in Algeria early in 1992.

The Algerian sources noted that another indication of the expected change is the fact that the United States is beginning to identify the Algerian armed groups as "terrorist organizations," reflecting a tendency to stop expressing support and sympathy for these groups.

An Algerian official who is acquainted with the U.S. attitude said that "this time last year Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri visited Washington and found State Department officials, with whom he held long and difficult talks, intransigent on the Algerian Government's initiatives and clearly sympathetic with the Islamic movements. Now the situation has changed considerably and the old double standard approach is beginning to disappear gradually... though very belatedly."

The Algerian official said that the recent contacts with the United States focused on showing that the operations carried out by the armed groups do not discriminate between individuals and groups and that the operations against foreigners do not discriminate between one nationality and another, which means that they are in fact "blind terrorism." He added that "the armed groups' use of car bombs in populated areas full of civilians played a major part in shifting the position of the U.S. officials whose eyes have been focused on the phenomenon of explosions and car bombs in the United States itself, threatening to even reach the White House."

Observers in Algeria believe that the discerned changes in the U.S. position coincided with the government's determination to find a political way out of the crisis through presidential elections, and with the progress made along those lines. They interpret the U.S. official spokesman's recent statement that the United States "harbors great respect for the Algerian Government" as a positive U.S. response to the Algerian Government's political initiatives. They believe that any future development in the U.S. position on the Algerian crisis will be determined by the degree of the government's success in upholding the political option and, especially, in the success of the presidential elections.

Reservists Recalled for Enlistment in Armed Forces

LD0206053495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to contribute to the good progress of the presidential elections, the process of reenlisting young reservists into the ranks of the National People's Army began yesterday. A presidential decree appearing in the latest issue of the official gazette explained that the young men concerned in this recall are those who did their national service in the years 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991.

The decree added that this recall does not apply to anyone who has been working in the security services or who has a public job related to the presidential elections, or anyone who has a father or a brother in the security service, or anyone whose father or brother has been a victim of terrorism.

Egypt

Policeman, 'Terrorist' Killed in al-Minya

NC3005214095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2127 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 30 May (MENA) — A police conscript of al-Minya Governorate's Central Security Forces was martyred and three other people, two police conscripts and a civilian, were wounded when unknown assailants shot them.

An official security source has announced that the assailants hiding inside a plantation opened fire on a Central Security Forces armored vehicle while it was passing on the Hawr Road east of al-Barajil in al-Minya's

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Mallawi District this afternoon. The source said that the security forces returned fire. Police conscript 'Abd-al-Hamid Mabruk 'Abd-al-Hamid was martyred; police conscripts Sha'ban Ibrahim and Mutawalli Gharib Hijazi and citizen Sayyid Sa'id 'Abd-al-'Awwad, who happened to be passing in the area, were wounded.

The security source reported that the wounded were transferred to a hospital for treatment.

The security source added that one terrorist, Hassunah 'Ali Shihatah 'Id, a student in al-Minya's Teachers College and a native of Naway in Mallawi District, was killed during the gunfire exchange. He was a known active terrorist and took part in recent violent attacks in al-Minya. The source said that he was also wanted in connection with Case No. 1328/1995 pertaining to the assassination of auxiliary police watchman Sabir Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hakim of the township of Naway in Mallawi District.

Senior officials of al-Minya Security Directorate and ballistic experts arrived on the scene to examine the weapons seized by the police. The Prosecutors' Office has been notified.

Officials Claim Governorate Secure

NC3005211495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 May 95 p 11

[Report by Kamal Sami in al-Minya]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A delegation from the Journalists Association visiting al-Minya has conducted a heated dialogue with al-Minya Governor Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Badawi; Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar, director of security in al-Minya; and al-Minya University President Dr. Jamal Abu-al-Makarim. The dialogue dealt with the security situation in the government, how to confront terrorism there, the number of detainees, criminal security, police violations, armed militias, licenses to carry weapons, political activity at the university, and how to protect future generations from terrorism.

Governor Badawi announced during the talks that more than 200 teachers have been transferred from the governorate schools to administrative positions without any financial loss to protect students and the new generations from their extremist ideas. More than 2 million pounds are being spent annually on youth centers and public libraries for the same goal, he added. He revealed that extremists have built more than 300 small mosques on banks of streams where youths are recruited. He stressed that security forces captured these mosques and placed them under the supervision of the al-Awqaf Ministry. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. 'Umar stressed that policemen differentiate between terrorists and religious people and that there is no custodianship on religion. He noted that there is a difference between detainees and suspects, adding that approximately 1,000 persons have been detained while 4,000 suspects have been arrested. He emphasized that those whom the terrorists killed allegedly for collaborating with police are not collaborators, adding that the terrorists acted on the basis of mere suspicions. He added that the same principle is being applied against these terrorists; that is, an eye for an eye! [passage omitted]

Asked about press reports on the possibility of armed militias to confront terrorism, Maj. Gen. 'Umar affirmed that this notion is unacceptable and will not be permitted.

Asked about reducing the curfew hours in Mallawi, he stressed that this is the first step toward lifting the curfew altogether and narrowing the grounds of suspicion. [passage omitted]

On the current security situation in al-Minya, Maj. Gen. 'Umar said that security-wise, al-Minya now is as secure as any other governorate. He called on the fugitive elements to turn themselves in and denied reports that outlaws are being used to supply policemen with information on terrorists. However, he added, some gangs have taken advantage of the current circumstances to commit crimes. [passage omitted]

Governor Outlines Sinai Economic Plans

95LD0058A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Apr 95 pp 56-58

[Report on "recorded" interview with Major General Mamduh al-Zuhayri by Safa' Louis; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The National Holiday of the Governorate of Southern Sinai. The Governor of Southern Sinai speaking to AL-MUSAWWAR: "By the year 2017, Southern Sinai's share of the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Plan will be E26.2 billion [Egyptian pounds]."**

He said: "The Governorate of Southern Sinai is considered the luckiest of Egypt's many governorates. That governorate still enjoys all the fundamentals of comprehensive development in different fields. Despite the developmental results that were achieved during the last few years—and which undoubtedly will continue to increase national income—until now the natural resources of Southern Sinai have not been fully exploited. This resulted primarily from a lack of the necessary financing

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that was needed to complete the Southern Sinai Development Plan, whose cost is estimated at E26.2 billion and which will be implemented within the framework of the National Development Program for Sinai. The implementation of that plan will last from 1994/95 to 2017."

The Public Works Sector has called for a study of how to take advantage of the unused millions of pounds that are now in its possession (because several of its units have been eliminated) and how to use these funds to finance the development of Southern Sinai. This study will examine the possibility of withdrawing these funds and how they should be invested a second time.

The issue of developing Southern Sinai has raised a number of questions, the most important of which are: What is the nature of the obstacles to development in the governorate? What are the features of the Southern Sinai Development Plan for different sectors? When will the towns of Sinai open their arms to the Egyptian tourist in a way that conforms to his financial means? And, finally, how will the Governorate of Southern Sinai face the danger of torrential floods!

To answer these and other questions, Al-MUSAWWAR met with Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri, the governor and spiritual father of Southern Sinai, so that he could shed light on several issues that concern those who passionately love Southern Sinai.

Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri began by describing the map of Southern Sinai in terms of the characteristics of each town in the governorate. He mentioned that "Ra's Sudr, Mount Sinai, Sharm al-Shaykh, Dhahab, Nuwayba' and Saint Catherine absolutely are all tourist towns. As for the town of Mount Sinai, it is possible that its planning will be completed so that it will become an industrial town. It has all the features needed to become such. The towns of Abu Rudays and Abu Zanimah have the strategic industries that will, sooner or later, have an impact on tourist activity in them. Any new plans for tourism may have to exclude these two towns in order to protect these strategic industries."

He said: "Many of the valleys of the governorate could become tourist spots for alpine tourism, travel and health resorts. In view of the relatively abundant supply of water, especially rain water, in the area around Ra's Sudr, that area is suitable for agriculture. In spite of this, we can say about the Governorate of Southern Sinai that, generally speaking, it would be difficult to find agricultural areas in the heart of Sinai because of the lack of water there."

He said: "God has given Sinai enchanting and varied natural features that include mountains, streams, valleys, and 600 km of beautiful sea coasts where coral reefs, rare fish, and fascinating scenery are found. Sinai is considered a world-class center for tourism because it has an abundance of religious, cultural, historic, sports and recreational tourist sites to satisfy all tastes.

Here the question poses itself: Could all of these enticements attract an appropriate number of tourists in general and Egyptian tourists in particular?"

Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri answers this question by saying that "it would be rare to find another area anywhere else in the world that enjoys all the elements of a tourist industry the way the Governorate of Southern Sinai does. For many long years in the past, we were unaware of this because Sinai was a top-secret military area. When we started paying attention to that heavenly spot, we concentrated first on the town of Sharm al-Shaykh. Doing that had a negative impact on Jewish tourists to the area, who started leaving it for Dhahab and then returning home. I believe that concerning ourselves during the next stage with developing Dhahab and other towns will put a halt to these visits." He then went on to say: "As part of the Southern Sinai Development Plan, it has been decided to develop the town of Mount Sinai, the capital of the governorate, so that it will become a town for tourism, agriculture, and industry because of the abundant supply of water there. A number of factories will be established there, either assembly factories or factories that will engage primarily in exploiting the raw materials of the governorate. Eleven factories have, in fact, been planned, in addition to an agricultural belt that will cover 20,000 feddans and the development of an airport and port in the town."

As for the future of Sharm al-Shaykh, the governor of Southern Sinai said: "The town is now being redesigned to correct all of the negative features of urban planning there now and to rebuilt Sharm al-Shaykh in a new form so that it will be able to absorb more than 85,000 persons, knowing that the present population is 5,000 only. These negative aspects in urban planning are the result of a lack of old and new maps of the town. The advisory bureaus of the city of Sharm al-Shaykh have stopped producing the necessary maps."

He said: "As part of the redesigning of Sharm al-Shaykh, it is expected that all the tourist services there will take a great leap forward. The new planning also aims at redesigning St. Catherine, Ra's Sudr, Nuwayba', and Dhahab in a new form so that they will become more famous than Sharm al-Shaykh."

He said: "The statistics confirm tangible progress in the number of tourists visiting and tourist nights spent in the Governorate of Southern Sinai, because the total

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number of tourists has grown from 162,000 in 1990 to 540,000 in 1994. The number of tourist nights spent there has increased from 378,000 to 1,547,000 during the same year." Here AL-MUSAWWAR inquired about the share of internal tourism in Southern Sinai!

Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri revealed the truth about the weakness of Egyptian tourism in some of the towns in the governorate. One of those towns is Saint Catherine, which has been placed under the guardianship of foreigners because of the special character of religious tourism there. The same situation applies to the Gulf of Aqaba. Egyptian tourists do not travel to Sharm al-Shaykh because of the mistaken fear and the conviction Egyptians have that prices are higher there than in the other cities of Sinai. According to the governor of Southern Sinai, "This is not true because prices are rising in some places and falling in others." He confirmed the town of Ra's Sudr is being upgraded so that it will be an area of 100-percent Egyptian tourism. This is being done because Ra's Sudr is located very close to Egypt proper. It is located 60 km from the Ahmad Hamdi, the Martyr tunnel.

Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri said that "Ra's Sudr is a town for day-trip tourists. As part of the present plan for the town, whose implementation will begin next month, Ra's Sudr will become a tourist area where visitors spend longer periods. This plan will be supported by the submission of a number of requests from investors to establish tourist villages in the town.

He said: "The Gulf of Aqaba region is represented by Dhahab and Nuwayba'. Both towns stand out as two- or three-star popular tourists areas or as tourist villages whose cost does not exceed the financial ability of an Egyptian family or youth who wishes to spend a few days there. It seems, however, that the principle obstacle facing that inexpensive tourism is the distance of those towns from Cairo."

The virgin land of Sinai is waiting for more and more investment and development, especially in the tourist sector. In this connection, Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri explained several suggested areas for tourist investment in Southern Sinai, first among them the coastal area between Ra's Musalla and Ra's Sudr, which is 25 km long and covers a total area of 55 square km. This area is being upgraded in order to create tourist village projects that will depend upon summer and winter tourism. The same applies to the tourist area between Ra's Matarimah and Hammam Fir'awn and Jabal Tanakah, which is 55 km long and covers a total area of 55 [as published] km. This area is being upgraded in order to establish winter and convalescent tourist villages. This is in addition to the tourist area between Ra's Rayah in Mount Sinai and Marsa Zirayah north of Ra's Muhammad, which is being upgraded in order to establish tourism projects and villages that will depend upon scuba diving and winter tourism. The same will happen in the limited area between the Nabq area and Wadi Matin, which are also being upgraded in order to establish tourism projects and villages that will depend upon scuba diving and winter tourism.

Concerning the features of the areas proposed for investment, Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri said: "There are numerous features that influence the process of developing tourism in these areas. Geography is one those features. This is represented by the location of the areas that have been proposed for development along the Suez coast between Ra's Sudr and Hammam Fir'awn. These areas are located close to Cairo and Suez and are being upgraded in order to attract internal tourism. They would also be suitable for foreign tourism if some recreational projects were added to them."

He said: "The natural features of this area are represented by a captivating and pollution-free coastline and a group of mountain ranges in most regions of the south, in addition to an abundance of airports in Sharm al-Shaykh, Al-Tur, Abu Rudays, and St. Catherine and regional road networks from Ra's Sudr to Taba and the ports of Mount Sinai, Sharm al-Shaykh, Nuwayba', and Abu Zanimah." Maj. Gen. al-Zuhayri added that "The National Development Program for Sinai aims at developing the tourist sector by establishing tourist villages and hotels, recreation areas, and other tourist services. The projected number of accommodations is estimated at about 28,400 rooms by the year 2017." The governor of Southern Sinai pointed out that "Tourist investment in Southern Sinai does not need investment guarantees [al-istithmar al-amin] because we have applications that will cover all the needs of the governorate. We need foreign assistance and investment for the industry and construction sector."

In this connection, Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri said that "An agreement has been reached with the Americans to provide an estimated E26 million in U.S. aid that would be used to construct a network of facilities to dispense health care and fresh water. The Americans stipulated that the governorate would be obligated to invest this sum in such a way so that the aid would be spent on the various needs of this project, which will begin with the towns of Nuwayba' and Sharm al- Shaikh. It was decided that, when this project is completed, it will be run as if it belonged to the private sector. It was also decided that this project would begin next May."

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As for the longstanding problem of water, Maj. Gen. Mamduh assured the citizens and tourists of Southern Sinai by explaining that "The most important water sources are the waters of the Nile, which have been brought to Abu Rudays. It has been decided that water from the Nile will be brought to Al-Tur and Sharm al-Shaykh during the next year and a half. The third source is ground and well water, as is the case in Al-Tur and St. Catherine."

He said: "A fresh water project is now being completed in Nuwayba', where ground water wells for agriculture are being dug. The cost of a well varies between E30,000 and E2 million. All along the coast there are water purification [tahliyah] stations in both the towns and tourist villages."

He continued saying that "A study has been made of the benefits of using flood water so that it would be possible to put it to greater positive use instead of letting it destroy buildings and tourist villages. It is worth mentioning that the lack of funds [al-i'timadat al-maliyah] is the only problem preventing the implementation of these studies. I believe that this financial problem will be faced during the coming fiscal year. In this regard, a group of dams will be built in an area like Wadi Watir in Nuwayba', which is where the largest floods take place each year. It is estimated that the average volume of water that flows into the Gulf of Aqaba every year is 100 million cubic meters. It has been decided to establish three main dams and a number of reservoirs and financial zones [al-manatiq al-tamwiliyah] in order, first, to store water and, then, to transfer the excess water back to the earth. Doing this will make it possible to distribute the excess water in a way that will raise the ground-water level. On the one hand, this will be beneficial if the wells are fragile and will diminish the severity of the floods on the other."

Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri added that "The costs involved in building dams to contain the floods are estimated at about E90 million and will be borne by the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources. It was decided that the implementation of this project would begin during the current fiscal year, but, in view of general circumstances at the national level, it was decided to delay implementation until next year.

"The costs involved in building dams in Sharm al-Shaykh to protect the region have been estimated at about E9 million. Work on these dams will be finished this April."

The governor of Southern Sinai stressed the necessity of providing the necessary financial support to establish the dams that were needed to protect the towns and installations of the governorate from destruction.

He said: "The water shortage problem is concentrated in Sharm al-Shaykh, where total water production varies between 1,600 and 1,900 cubic meters a day, while needs there reach about 2,000 cubic meters a day. Therefore, a water station capable of producing 4,000 cubic meters a day is now being established there."

The governor stressed that "The problem faced by the tourist villages that do not obtain water from local sources has not made it necessary for them to establish water purification stations. They are supplied from other sources. It is worth mentioning that the private sector has received permission to establish a water company, which has started to meet the needs of the area. This has played a part in increasing the water supply and lowering water prices."

He said: "Because the town of Dhahab has wells whose water is not fit for drinking, a station that can produce 2,000 cubic meters of fresh water a day will be established there in order to meet local needs for the next five years. The problem that stands out in Nuwayba' is its purification station that has a capacity to produce 2,000 cubic meters a day but is only operating at a fourth of its capacity."

The governor confirmed in general terms that the water problem of the Governorate of Southern Sinai would come to an end during 1997.

As to the future of agriculture in the Governorate of Southern Sinai, and the possibility that the governorate would take part in increasing the area of agricultural land in Egypt, he explained that "In light of the water resources that exist in Southern Sinai, studies and research have confirmed that the Governorate of Sinai can provide an alternative to the diminishing quantity of agricultural land in the Nile valley. The governorate has closed off [hasr] all of the lands in Southern Sinai that are suitable for the cultivation of all types of agriculture. There are 200,000 feddans of such land. A working plan has been drawn up that aims at obtaining the maximum return in agricultural produce from a unit of water. This plan concentrates on nontraditional crops and attaches importance to intensive cultivation by setting aside water resources that are separate from drinking water resources. Until now almost 16,000 feddans have been reclaimed and cultivated through the efforts of citizens and private investments in the governorate. We now have studies about areas that are suitable for cultivation. These studies have proven that those areas have sufficient water supplies for their irrigation. There are numerous irrigation projects. One of them is the 'Ilwat Ba'ba' [Ba'ba' Hill] project in Abu Zanimah; others are the Hadbat al-'Ajarmiya ['Ajarmiya Heights]

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project in St. Catherine and the Al-Sahimi salt lake [mallaha] projects in Ra's Sudr.

"It is worth mentioning that, on the one hand, agricultural expansion in the governorate will lead to an abundance of food stuffs, vegetables, fruits, and different kinds of meat and, on the other, to lower prices. The governorate now depends upon the neighboring governorates in this regard, which has led to high prices and a lowering of quality."

Concerning the most serious obstacles, he said: "The governorate is still in strong need of completing construction projects that require large sums, particularly in the public utilities, drinking water, health care, roads, and electric sector. The private sector is also still playing an extremely limited role in development and construction activities and concentrates its investments in tourist projects without investing in projects that exploit the natural resources of the region."

He added that "the governorate needs to establish productive projects that are highly labor intensive so as to increase the local population." He stressed "The necessity of establishing a national organization to coordinate between the large number of organizations that are responsible for development and construction in the Sinai Peninsula in order to exploit its natural resources."

He likewise stressed the need to strengthen the various ties between Sinai and the rest of the Republic, and between Sinai and the external world. He stressed the need for concentrating upon the goal of human development in all its aspects, together with concentrating upon industrial development in order to create civilized settled societies, and the encouragement of small industries that will be able to absorb large numbers of workers. He also stressed the need to support agricultural production so as to achieve a measure of agricultural self-sufficiency; and, finally, to promote and develop tourism in a way that conforms to international trends in order to attract tourists from all over the world.

Southern Sinai is still a virgin land that expects greater efforts from its energetic governor, Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri, its executive and administrative system, and its political and popular leaders in order to move toward achieving the desired goal, to push the wheel of development forward in a way that will benefit the common good, and to raise national income. This is particularly urgent because Egypt is now passing through a great historical turning point that has made it necessary to assist all the efforts aimed at promoting the progress and raising the stature of Egypt.

On the occasion of celebrations commemorating the national holiday of the governorate, the governor, Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri, and a group of ministers and governors that was headed by Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman, minister of state for new development communities; Dr. 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Amara, head of the Higher Youth and Sports Council; Major General Munir Shash, governor of Northern Sinai; and a group of popular leaders went on an excursion to visit several installations and tourist villages. During the excursion, Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman announced that an urban planning project for the Sharm al-Shaykh area would be approved during the coming week. This was one of three proposals submitted to the governor and the local people's council. A special council that was put in charge of dealing with this issue approved one of the three proposals after it was amended and discussed so that it would conform to the main development plan for the governorate. The town of Sharm al-Shaykh will be redesigned in the framework of a comprehensive plan to redesign the towns of Southern Sinai in accordance with present and future development needs.

The minister of state for new development communities announced an international competition for designing the tourist region between Ra's Muhammad and al-Tur. Leading international firms specializing in urban planning have submitted applications to this competition. The firms that will participate in the planning phase and provide the necessary financing for it have, in fact, already been chosen. The main outlines of urban planning for Dhahab, Nuwayba', and Taba have already been drawn up. Priorities and timetables, whose purpose is to limit investment expenses from the national treasury, have been decided, as has the part that the public and private sectors will play, respectively, in the implementation of the plan.

As for the future of youth sports activity in Southern Sinai, Dr. 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Amara explained that "An agreement has been reached with Governor Maj. Gen. Mamduh al-Zuhayri and Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman on joint cooperation in order to promote the cooperative youth sports movement. In fact, an agreement in principle has been reached to establish a scout camp for youth that charges a nominal fee so that all Egyptian youth will be able to benefit from the scouting movement. It is also expected that the governor will support us by granting a plot of land so that a stadium can be built in Sinai with the cooperation of the Ministry of New Development Communities. That will happen because of President Mubarak's concern for the scouting movement."

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Morocco

Reportage on Market, Fishing Dispute With Spain

Statement Issued on 'Obstruction'

LD2605081895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 May 95

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation "as a result of an increase in the operations affecting the free passage of Moroccan produce through Spanish territory"; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 13 May 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation had already condemned the obstruction operations against Moroccan produce destined for European markets, and that have been carried out since the fisheries agreement between Morocco and the European Union expired.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation had hoped that the authorities concerned would take the appropriate measures to ensure that the Moroccan produce reach their final destination, in accordance with the agreements and laws in force.

Since then, and much to the astonishment of the Moroccan authorities, the blockade and harassment operations have been increasing. These operations now affect Moroccan nationals living on Spanish territory or those travelling through it, since they have also become the target of harassment by some local authorities in southern Spain.

In the protest, endeavors [as heard] it undertook in the beginning of May with the European capitals and the European Union authorities concerned, Morocco called for an immediate return to a normal situation in order to preserve the climate of serenity necessary for a harmonious development of relations with the European Union and its member states, particularly Spain, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighborliness, and Cooperation existing between the two countries.

The Moroccan Government notes, with deep regret, that this call has not been heeded, and this is what has led to the worsening of the situation. In this respect, Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, received this afternoon Mr. (Marc Perini), head of the European Commission delegation in Rabat, to inform him about Morocco's disappointment with the stand of the European Union authorities that have regrettably not translated their statements of condemnation into real action, and that therefore, have not taken any tangible measures to put an end to these unacceptable operations.

Mr. Abdellatif Filali also informed the European representative about the possible serious repercussions on Moroccan-European relations of such practices that could be detrimental primarily to those who are carrying out the blockade and obstruction operations at the Spanish ports.

Shipowners Back 'Legitimate' Stance

LD0106131795 Rabat MAP in English 1305 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jun. 1 (MAP) — The stance of Morocco in its negotiations with the European Union (EU) to conclude a fisheries accord is "legitimate", president of the Moroccan Federation of Coastal Fishing Shipowners' Associations 'Abd-al-Majid Smires told the Moroccan private "2M" TV Tuesday [30 May].

In an interview on the eve of the fifth round of talks between the two parties to start here this Thursday, Smires said Moroccan conditions are "conform to the provisions of regulations, namely those of the contracts and obligations the European must abide by", and the breach of these regulations threatens Moroccan sea resources.

He said Spain was accountable for the delay of the negotiations, for "it is intransigent and wants to keep on plundering Moroccan sea resources".

On the EU proposals to create fisheries joint ventures, he stressed the Union must clearly define the notion of partnership, explaining that the Europeans rather want to tap the marine space, while Morocco wants the partnership to encompass the exportation and marketing of sea food.

Party Urges Suspension of Negotiations

LD0106132895 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jun. 1 (MAP) The fifth round of Moroccan-European Union talks on a new fisheries accord to start this Thursday [1 June] is taking place in a "tense" climate due mainly to the official pressures of Spain and the fisheries lobby, "AL BAYANE AL YUM" daily said Thursday.

The daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS) said Morocco should have reacted appropriately to the Spanish dealings namely through suspending the negotiations till the ending of the Spanish pressures and provocations. If Morocco did not respond, this does not mean it gives up its rights and sovereignty over its sea resources.

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It is the duty of the European party to behave otherwise and take the stance of European Fisheries Commissioner Mrs Emma Bonino who denounced the hostile attitude of the Spaniards concerning Moroccan goods travelling through Spain.

It is also its duty not to give up to the pressure of the Spanish lobby, the daily said adding that if the negotiations are to end in setting up partnership, this partnership must lie on sound bases and be mutually beneficial.

Negotiations With EU Resume

LD0106215795 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth round of the Morocco-European Union [EU] negotiations on sea-fishing began today in an attempt to draft a new agreement between the two sides following the expiry of the previous agreement on 30 April last. The four previous rounds, which were held in Brussels and Rabat, have not enabled the two sides to narrow the differences between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Following the two closed sessions held today, it appears that no change has been recorded with regard to the Moroccan stance, as the Moroccan side once again presented the demands on which it has depended since the beginning of the first round. [passage omitted]

The meetings of the Moroccan and European negotiators will resume tomorrow morning.

Sudan

Rebel Group SSIM/A Extends Cease-Fire

AB0106192295 Paris AFP in English 1220 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, 1 Jun (AFP) — The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) has extended its ceasefire in the Sudanese civil war for another two months as of midnight Wednesday [31 May], SSIA announced here Wednesday night. In a statement faxed to AFP on Wednesday night, SSIA said it would observe the ceasefire for another two months but ordered its forces to remain in full alert to counter any attack in self defence. The announcement came only hours after another rebel faction, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), announced a similar extension ceasefire effective immediately.

The ceasefire, brokered by Carter to enable his Global 2000 Center to carry out a programme to fight like diseases like river blindness and facilitate movement of relief supplies in South Sudan, came into effect on March 28 for two months. Southern rebel groups have accused the Sudanese Government of violating it several times.

The Sudanese Government extended the ceasefire period for another two months on May 25, after initially threatening not to renew it, accusing the southern rebels of violating it.

In its statement, SSIA appealed to Carter to make sure that the Sudanese Government honours the new ceasefire, otherwise SSIA forces would be obliged to retaliate on any violations that might be committed by the government forces.

SSIA recalled that it had earlier urged Carter to prevail on the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime in Khartoum to unconditionally lift the ban on flights clearance to 17 relief centres which it had denied humanitarian and relief access for more than three months now, and to abandon restrictions it imposed on some humanitarian organisations to provide relief assistance to the needy people in the south.

The statement urged the Atlanta-based Carter Center this time to extend its campaign areas in the south the Khartoum government had denied flight clearance and humanitarian and relief access.

SSIA also urged the regional Inter-Government Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) and its friends to persuade Khartoum to accept the resumption of the IGADD-mediated peace talks on the basis of the stated IGADD Declaration of Principles during the two-month ceasefire period.

The peace talks, mediated by an IGADD committee chaired by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi — which also included Presidents of Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Uganda — collapsed late last year when Khartoum refused to discuss the role of religion in government and the rebels refused any settlement short of abolition of Shari'ah law and the return of Sudan to a secular state. [passage omitted]

Rebel Group Denies 'Untrue Allegations'

AB0106220695 Paris AFP in English 2140 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nairobi, 1 Jun (AFP) — The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) has denied allegations by the Sudanese Government that its forces had accepted "federalism" as a basis for future talks to end the 12-year-old Sudanese civil war. In a statement released here on Thursday [1 June], SSIM/A spokesman David de Chand said that

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allegations that the Khartoum government representative Mathiang Malual Mabior met SSIM/A officials in Nairobi were untrue.

"Mabior fabricated the story to appease his National Islamic Front (NIF) masters in Khartoum. As far as the SSIM/A is concerned there was not any meeting with the said NIF official," De Chand said.

The SSIM/A statement stressed that "federalism was not a solution to the chronic Sudanese conflict between north and south. "We would like to reiterate that the SSIM/A is struggling to force Khartoum to concede to the people of southern Sudan the right to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination which could be achieved through an internationally supervised referendum," an SSIM/A statement said. [passage omitted]

Official Explains Ban on 2 Newspapers

EA0106214595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1335 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ladies and Gentlemen: The decision by the Media and Publication Council to ban two newspapers which deal with social and sports affairs has invoked some reactions and differing views beyond the local scene, and has featured in foreign commentaries, which have portrayed the Media and Publication Council's decision as a violation of media freedom. To clarify this issue in all its perspectives, our colleague, Khalid Mustafa al-Makki, met Muhammad Sa'id Ma'ruf, the chairman of the council, who began by explaining the Media and Publication Law.

[Ma'ruf] It is common knowledge that newspapers in Sudan today abide by the Media and Publication Law of 1993. This law was preceded by one which came into force in 1986, immediately after the uprising. People felt that the 1993 law was inadequate, and as a result the 1993 draft law was extensively debated by the Council of Ministers, and the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] through the Political Mobilization Committee. The debate went on for a number of months and featured in the local media, therefore, by the time it was unanimously approved by the TNA, all views on it were known. [passage omitted]

In accordance with this law, newspapers began to be published by institutions, notably public share companies or corporations. This was deemed necessary, because institutions are more capable of sustaining strong newspapers, newspapers that are well edited and printed. At the same time it was important to restrict the power of individuals over newspapers, and by extension the power of families, parties, and sects. Newspapers articulate and shape public opinion and, therefore, if we want a newspaper which is conscious of the country's aims, that newspaper has to speak on behalf of the majority. [passage omitted]

On what happened recently to two newspapers, AL-KURA and AL- ZILAL, I wish to point out that the two newspapers were published long before this law of 1993 came into force, and ceased once it became operational. The media council received a request from the Sudanese Printing and Publishing House, a national publishing house which publishes national newspapers like the English language NEW HORIZON and SUDANOW, seeking to publish the two mentioned newspapers in its name in conformity with the clause of the media law on publication. This meant that the owners of the two newspapers had resigned and conformed to the law by having their publications taken up by an institution. However, after a while it was discovered that the relationship between the publishing house and the newspapers was not one of ownership — the two newspapers had not become the property of the publishing house — but rather one of production. In other words, the two newspapers were being published in the name of the same licensed owners as before, that is before the law came into force. These owners conducted their dealings with the publishing house [word indistinct].

This is a dangerous violation of the law and a punishable offense. The council however felt that the Sudanese Publishing House was undertaking new experiments: it therefore needed to be steered toward correct practices, so it was merely made aware of these facts, so it stopped publishing the two newspapers.

The Sudanese Publishing House was thus given the opportunity to make the two newspapers conform with Clause Four which demands that they be published by the house, and not by individuals whose dealings with the publishing house are personal. This opportunity obtained for two months but, unfortunately, although some changes were applied in some areas, on the whole these did not conform with the media law. The council had earlier given the two months deadline upon whose expiry it was hoped that the situation would be brought into conformity with the law or else the licenses of two newspapers would be withdrawn. This did not happen, so the council decided last month to withdraw the licenses of the two newspapers.

[Al-Makki] Legal issues affecting the Media and Publication Law raises the question of the extent of freedom enjoyed by newspapers published under it.

[Ma'ruf] Actually, as I said earlier when speaking on the relationship between this action [to withdraw licenses] and media freedom, the action is merely one of enforcing the law, and is unrelated to media freedom.

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The fact that the two newspapers are not political, but are concerned only with cultural and sporting issues, is proof of this. The media law gives wide latitude of freedom to newspapers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Makki] Mr. Ma'ruf, recently some (?shortcomings) have surfaced which call for an amendment to the Media and Publication Law. Perhaps the matter has reached the TNA which, apparently, is now debating a similar issue. Could you tell us what justifies such an amendment to the media law, and what in your opinion are the major points raised which call for the amendment?

[Ma'ruf] In fact some shortcomings have been observed in newspapers, and these have focused the public's attention on the media law but the law is not responsible. What has happened is that some newspapers which usually concern themselves with social and sporting issues have deviated to the extent where some social newspapers write about superstitious matters, deviant crimes, or indecent social [word indistinct], and justify these on grounds that they are giving news and facts about people's lives. However, Sudanese society does not accept this, nor does the sporting world approve of subjecting individuals to personal ridicule. These are issues which have prompted people to talk about the media law. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Iranian Envoy, Officials Review Bilateral Relations

LD3105115895 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, May 31, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, Gholamali San'ati, and Kuwaiti head of Commission for Prisoners of War and Those Missing in Action, Sheikh Salim al-Sabah, reviewed bilateral relations in a meeting in Kuwait Monday.

In addition to discussing friendly relations between the two countries, the situation of Iranian and Kuwaiti war prisoners held in Iraq was also reviewed. San'ati further called on the Kuwaiti official to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss the take up the matter with Iranian officials [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, the Iranian ambassador in a meeting with Sheikh Mashal Ahmad al-Sabah, brother of the Kuwaiti amir, discussed the close and brotherly relations enjoyed by the two states. Referring to recent visit of Iran's Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri to Kuwait, al-Sabah underlined the need for more exchange of visits by the two countries' officials.

In a separate meeting with Sadiq al-Basam, the chancellor of the College of Political and Economic Sciences of Kuwait, the two sides discussed mutual cooperation.

Appreciating Iran's stance in the course of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, al-Basam called for implementation of agreements reached between the two countries on scientific and eductional cooperation. He further voiced his college's readiness to hold joint seminars and meetings with similar Iranian colleges.

Oman

Foreign Minister Meets Israel's Peres on Peace

JN0106141595 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1320 GMT 1 Jun 95

[From the "Correspondents' Reports" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As part of a private visit to Washington by His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, his excellency met yesterday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent in Washington Hanan al-Badri filed this report:

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate, met yesterday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. They discussed the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Following the meeting, the Sultanate of Oman Embassy in Washington issued the following statement:

Within the context of the Sultanate's active efforts and its involvement in the Middle East peace process in its bilateral and multilateral aspects; and on the sidelines of his participation in a Washington symposium by the Center for Peace and Economic Cooperation in the Middle East under the title "A New Middle East," His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the results of the negotiations in this connection.

Following the meeting, Shim'on Peres told reporters that since Israel is engaged in peace efforts with Arab parties, primarily Syria, then there is no longer any reason why it should not have normal diplomatic relations with any Arab state. The Israeli foreign minister reiterated his call for ending the Arab boycott of Israel. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Iranian Goods To Be Re-exported to Regional States

LD3105132195 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, May, 31, IRNA — Qatar declared its agreement with reexporting Iranian goods via Qatar to Arab countries of the region.

Iranian ambassador to Qatar, Seyyed Mohammad Safa'i, in an interview with IRNA correspondent here said, "Qatar will provide Iran with a plot of land for storing goods for reexport purposes."

Qatar has also promised to provide more facilities in the area of issuing visa and residence permit for Iranians, he added.

Iranian ambassador put the annual volume of Iran-Qatar trade at drls. 100 million and added Iran will import ethylene, polyetheylene and frozen meat from Qatar and will export fruit and canned food to that country.

Safa'i added that Iranian goods and products are very popular in Qatar.

Regarding Iran-Qatar cooperation, he said, so far, 12 memoranda of understanding in the areas of transportation, oil, commerce, scientific, educational, cultural, customs and labour have been signed by the two countries.

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Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Press Warned on 'Unprecedented Attacks'

LD0106094795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2350 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 31 May [dateline as received] — The editor of Islamic Affairs at SPA has written the following:

We have been following with much astonishment and deep pain the open and unprecedented attacks by some of the Egyptian press recently. Those papers have taken the implementation of the Shari'ah of God against an Egyptian doctor as material for inflaming and inciting Egyptian public opinion against a fraternal Arab state who is linked with Egypt by the strongest ties of friendship and fraternity within a strong framework of religion, blood, language, and common destiny. We appreciate the responsible writers who refrained from getting involved in this issue, and we have constantly refused to keep up with those writers in the art of abuse and insults and levelling false accusations and reprehensible words against the Saudi authorities; and the sons of the Saudi people harbor toward Egypt, its president, and government and people all the sentiments of esteem and appreciation. [passage omitted]

Second, how can a Muslim, whoever he is, describe the application of God's laws as brutal, barbaric, and inhumane, as stated by some of those who dealt with this subject? They abuse the invisible without establishing the facts of the matter or all the details of the issue from beginning to end. [passage omitted]

Fourth, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while stressing it is ever eager to continue strengthening and bolstering its fraternal relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt, will not allow the practices in which some have dared to engage in the Egyptian press to lead to the slightest change in the course of the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

From all the above, it is clear that Dr. Muhammad Kamil Khalifah gave his people false information and compounded the calumny when he made a base and false accusation against a distinguished educator, whose probity is attested to, of which the doctor could not prove a single letter.

We have seen the outcome of the orchestrated, invented media clamor that surrounded the case and was aimed at stirring up bad feelings and lighting the fire of dissension between brothers.

The commentator ends his statement by saying: "We say to our brothers in dear Egypt: O brothers, establish the facts and search for those who are concealed behind this attempt to stir up dissension." What we have been observing for a whole week from some papers published on the fraternal soil of Egypt is a dangerous extreme, because for their brothers, the Saudi people, the matter has gone as far as it can.

But, God willing, we will not allow evil plotters to encroach upon all the ties of affection, fraternity, and loyalty between Saudi Arabia and Egypt — leadership, government, and people. "But evil plotting will only harm those who carry it out" [Koranic verse].

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Visit Denied; View on Islands Reaffirmed

MM3105113595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "United Arab Emirates Does Not Expect Early Visit by Iranian Envoy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu-Dhabi, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Informed sources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] said yesterday that "by yesterday there was no official indication of any Iranian intention to send an envoy to the UAE to discuss issues pertaining to security in the Gulf region."

The sources were commenting on reports that the Iranian National Security Council had decided, at a meeting chaired by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to send delegations to the states of the region to explain Iranian views on reports about what they described as "U.S. plans to destabilize Iran's national security."

On the statements made by Dr. 'Ali Khorram, adviser to the Iranian foreign minister, calling for security arrangements in the Gulf region with the participation of all littoral states, the sources said that as a matter of principle the UAE is eager to provide all that is necessary to establish security and stability in the region on the basis of known and declared principles, namely respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Arab Gulf littoral states, noninterference in the internal affairs of these states, and refraining from attempts to influence their political choices in any way.

They added that, in the context of these principles, settlement of all pending issues — the most important of which is that of Iran's occupation of the three islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa — is a necessary introduction to the building of trust on which the region's security and stability could be based.

They said that no collective security formula is conceivable as long as some states of the region are occupying the territory of other neighboring states.

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They pointed out that overlooking such issues as the occupation of the three islands and proceeding to discuss matters of security cooperation in the Gulf region would in reality only mean giving the occupation legitimacy.

Asked if termination of Iran's occupation of the three islands is a condition for any political dialogue with Iran, the sources said that the UAE does not close the door to dialogue with Iran and is insisting that the issue of the three islands should be resolved peacefully within a political and legal framework, and that is why it links the issue of the islands to the issues of bilateral economic cooperation. Bilateral relations, they added, have not been affected by the islands issue because the UAE is keen not to create a state of confrontation with Iran and is eager to work peacefully for a satisfactory solution based on respect for the principles of international law and good neighborly relations.

Yemen

President Urges Envoys To Support Economic Reform

JN0106171795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received (Tsumu Akama), Japanese ambassador to our country. The brother president asked the Japanese envoy to relay a message to Japanese Prime Minister Murayama concerning bilateral ties and areas of mutual cooperation. The message also addresses our country's efforts to implement a sweeping economic reform program and the required Japanese support for these efforts in order to promote the democratization endeavor and the development process in our country. The message also deals with bilateral cooperation in the area of investment, as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

The brother president and the Japanese ambassador reviewed bilateral ties and the means to promote and enhance them in the interest of the two friendly countries.

The brother president also received German ambassador to our country Dr. (Helda Contessa.) The brother president asked her to relay a message to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on bilateral ties, areas of mutual cooperation, and the means of promoting and enhancing them in the interest of the two countries. The message also addresses the support our country needs in the course of its efforts to carry out a sweeping economic reform program. Such support, the message says, would promote our country's development endeavor and democratization effort. The message also addresses a host of regional and international issues of common interest.

The brother president also received French ambassador to our country (Marcel Lojel.) The brother president asked the French envoy to relay a message to French President Jacques Chirac on the issues and developments that concern bilateral ties, areas of bilateral cooperation, and the means to further promote them in the interest of the two countries' friendly peoples. The message also addresses the required French support for the sweeping economic reform program started in our country. Such support, the message says, would ensure the success of this program and help achieve the desired results, such as promoting democracy and enhancing the development endeavor. The message also touches on many regional and international issues of common interest.

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Antiregime Leaflets Reportedly Handed Out in Mosul

NC0106164295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 21 May, groups of the Islamic Resistance in the Mosul Governorate distributed hundreds of leaflets in the city of Mosul, particularly in the Bab al-Tawq, Hadiqat al-Shuhada', and al-Dawwasash quarters. According to our sources in Iraqi Kurdistan, the leaflets exposed the practices of tyrant Saddam's regime and his aggressiveness against the Iraqi people throughout Iraq. The leaflets highlighted the crimes committed by tyrant Saddam and the gangs connected to him. They urged the people of Mosul to boycott the authorities and to rebel against Saddam's criminal regime and to unite to topple him and the regime of the corrupt family.

The leaflets said that the new Interior Minister criminal Muhammad Zimam reprimanded the Mosul governor and threatened to relieve him of his post and to refer him and all officials in charge of the security departments to interrogation if they do not confront the serious threats facing the authorities in Mosul Governorate.

The security situation in Mosul is in turmoil and the Iraqi regime has deployed dozens of patrols and checkpoints in the city and on the highways that link it to other governorates.

Opposition Claims Tribal Chiefs Detained in al-Anbar

NC0106204395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyrant Saddam's authorities have arrested a number of tribal chiefs and seven women in al-Anbar Governorate. According to reports by our sources, among the detainees are Shaykh Nawwaf Rashid Farhan; Shaykh Husayn 'Abbus, who is also a man of religion; Shaykh Hakim Munawir 'Allawi; and Shaykh Ghazi al-Duray'i, who is the leading shaykh of the Bu-'Isa tribe.

Iranian Pilot Reportedly Defects to Kurdish Area

NC0206091295 Paris AFP in English 0844 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, June 2 (AFP) — An Iranian air force helicopter pilot defected to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq and turned himself over to UN officials, an Iranian opposition group said Friday [2 June].

The pilot crashed the helicopter as he tried to land near UN offices in al-Sulaymaniyah after fleeing Iran on Wednesday, according to a statement from the Baghdad-based People's Mujahedeen received here.

The man, who was not named, escaped from the wreck and appealed for asylum from UN officials, the statement said.

It added that the Iranian government had ordered its intelligence services to track him down and kill him.

No confirmation was available from the United Nations or independent sources.

Al-Sulaymaniyah is controlled by Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

Kurdish Leader Barzani Extends Truce Until 15 Jun

JN0106172095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mas'ud Barzani has issued the following decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To serve the general good of the Kurdistan people; in response to the peaceful efforts of the friends of our people and the Kurdistan parties; out of our desire to give another chance to reach a just political solution; and to create the appropriate conditions for the harvest by the farmers and the completion of final exams by our students, we have decided to extend the truce until 15 June.

We seek God's help.

Signed: Mas'ud Barzani

[Dated] Wednesday, 31 May 1995

Officials Brief National Assembly on Achievements

JN0106175095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi National Assembly has held the sixth session in its first ordinary term under deputy speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri.

The assembly invited Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals; and Dayf 'Abd- al-Majid Ahmad, deputy director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], to explain the strategic dimensions of Iraqi industries and their role in bolstering national production, backing the Iraqi people's steadfastness against the unfair blockade and aggression, and achieving final victory. They will also reply to the questions of assembly members and explain basic aspects of the

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industrial, agricultural, commercial, and health projects which have been affected by the continuation of the unjust blockade as well as the negative repercussions of the blockade on these national projects.

Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Rahman affirmed the continuous support which is being given by the political leadership, headed by leader President Saddam Husayn, to the strugglers of the industrial sector and the extraordinary efforts which have been made by these strugglers in rebuilding the infrastructure and creating an advanced economic base in the service of great Iraq.

Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Rahman reviewed the accomplishments which have been made in the industrial sector through the implementation of many gigantic, vital, and strategic industrial projects which, he said, are a source of pride for all Iraqis; the production of spare parts in order to meet the requirements of agricultural, industrial, and health establishments and factories; and the utilization of local alternatives in the building and reconstruction of many national projects which were destroyed by the aggressors. All this, he added, has taken place despite the continuation of the unfair blockade on brave Iraq.

Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Rahman said that the aim of the 30-state aggression was to destroy the national industry and create a big gap between the local technology and what is happening in the outside world.

MIO Deputy Director Ahmad reviewed several gigantic projects which have been carried out by MIO teams, including irrigation projects such as Saddam River, al-Qadisiyah River, al-'Izz River, Umm al-Ma'arik River, al-Ishaqi [drainage] projects, northern al-Jazirah irrigation project, and Saddam irrigation project; the building of major bridges, such as the two-tier bridge and the reconstruction and repair of 183 bridges, including the suspension bridge; and the production of chemical fertilizers and pesticides for agriculture and other agricultural requirements as well as their role in building an agricultural base which is helping to supply foodstuffs for the people and to break the blockade.

Editorial on Results of Blockade on Citizens

95LH0147A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Apr 95 p 13

[Editorial by Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Blockaded Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq's tragedy has its numerous aspects, which cannot be summed up in one sentence. The tragedy is not just a result of the regime's violence and brutality in dealing with its citizens; not just a result of immersion of the regime's party in fascism and in hostility to whomever does not belong to it; and not just a result of the regime leadership's adventures on all fronts with the neighboring countries. Iraq's tragedy is not just the ceaseless escape of its citizens for more than 15 years; not just the exorbitant price it pays for a piece of bread for its citizens; and not just the government-imposed and UN-imposed blockade against the country. The tragedy is all these calamities combined together.

Tens of thousands — reports even say the figure amounts to hundreds of thousands — of Iraqis have crossed their country's border to flee the domestic battles. To date, they are still refugees living in tents or in towns in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, or on Jordan's streets. This in itself is a big tragedy of which the Arab world rarely hears because public opinion is largely preoccupied with the political battle between Baghdad and Washington. What is happening in Iraq happens nowhere else in the world. Two years ago, the biggest operation in our modern time was carried out to alter the features of a geographic area, and the only people who cared to follow up on it are the victims. The forests of the marshlands [al-ahwar] adjacent to the Iranian border were burnt; the area's water was drained; and its inhabitants were displaced just to fight the Iraqi opposition, said to have used that area and its tall grasses for hiding or infiltration. More than 100,000 people were lost in that area, and tens of thousands of its inhabitants fled to neighboring borders, Iran specifically, and still live there under a difficult social circumstance. The failure of the armed opposition's attempt to seize the southern towns produced horrible results for the civilians, who were forced in 1991 to cross the borders to Saudi Arabia in tens of thousands. Some of these civilians still live in border towns built for them. We cannot, moreover, forget the large numbers of escapees and refugees found in the open world of Europe and the United States. These people are estimated at hundreds of thousands who started their journey toward aimlessness more than 15 years ago. This is why one finds that the select group of Arab physicians and university professors found in the West are Iraqis.

According to one Iraqi, the citizen has lost his hope to ever see his country stable as long as the leadership's aspirations and the logic of violence control the regime's vision. The war with Iran was enough to teach the most rash a lesson after the seas of blood that were shed on both sides and after the enormous losses incurred by both Iraq and Iran. But that blood and those losses were not enough for Baghdad, which proceeded to embark on a bigger battle against the Gulf front even before the Iraqis could bury their dead in the war with Iran.

Dimensions of the Iraqi citizen's tragedy are much deeper than to be confined to the problem with the cur-

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rent regime. This citizen has inherited a multireligious structure consisting of people who believe in God, people who worship fire, Sunna, Shi'ites, Arabs, Turkomen, and Kurds. It is a mosaic that surpasses any mixture of colors in any part of the Arab world. The country's fragile social structure has facilitated the opportunity to tear this country apart into discordant units. This has made it easier for the regime to control this structure with extreme, rather unprecedented, brutality. Every group is self-divided, and each camp contains disunited parties, as one can see in the Islamist, socialist, and Kurdish parties. The latest such disunity has developed among the Kurdish factions that have embarked on war against each other, and this war is no less ferocious than the regime's war against all of them.

Iraq has become like hell. It is a jail, and the Iraqi people have no escape from its torture. But, Iraq has not always been a burning inferno and Iraq's tragedy did not start with the current regime, which, no doubt, has entered history with its heinous and horrible actions. Conditions began to deteriorate in 1958 when a military man became Iraq's ruler, toppling the monarchy and ushering in the tape of 37 successive years of violence, coups, and unrest in an infernal Iraq. The misguided masses, who believed the salvation promises made in the year of Abd-al-Karim Qasim's coup, did not realize what was going to happen to them. They chanted stupidly, "There is no leader other than Karim."

Iraq lost its stability and the little democracy and freedom it had. The series of violence and of an Iraq ruled with the rifle started as of that day. The historical dimension of Iraq's tragedy cannot be recorded against the current regime. But we can say that the tragedy has peaked under this regime.

As many people know, Iraq is not like Somalia. It is not poor in resources, and it is not a desert country that it may live on its oil solely. Rather, it is the region's most fortunate country with its water, its soil, its people, and its civilization. But its fortune has not lasted long. Its most stable periods in this century were experienced under the colonist's umbrella, despite the people's hatred for colonialism. The nationalists have been harder on their citizens, and the pan-Arabists have assaulted their Arabs more ferociously.

The truth is that nobody knows what form tomorrow's Iraq will assume because its current position is unprecedented. Its regime is not an individualistic regime, which would allow one to imagine that the gravest harm inflicted on the people would be the ruler's selfishness. This regime has a lust for violence that has nothing to do with the individualistic regime. It is not a tribal regime, which would allow one to say that it is a regime keen on its traditions and values, regardless of what this means in terms of lagging behind the bandwagon of today's world. It is not a democratic regime, which would allow one to believe that it will lose in the first future election. Nobody can identify Baghdad's tendencies. However, one can ascertain that Baghdad is always in a state of war, either with its neighbors, with its citizens, or even with itself. The Iraqis have lost hope in everything, including help from the major powers that decided to abandon them to their fate at the darkest moments when these powers could have intervened to change the regime or to stop massacres. This is why nobody knows what will happen to these refugees who are scattered in numerous countries. These refugees have gotten tired of listening to newscasts. The world forgot them with the end of the second Gulf war. Those who speak innocently of lifting the blockade against Iraq don't realize that there are worse things: blood baths at home and a wandering life for those in the diaspora. The blockade will be lifted shortly. But what about the other aspects of the tragedy?

Editorial Views 'Failure' of Arab League

95LH0132A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20, 21 Mar 95

[Article in two installments by Salah al-Mukhtar, former Arab League assistant secretary general: "The 50th Anniversary of the Arab League: Did It Unite or Divide Us? Did It Defend Arab Interests or Serve the Forces of Imperialism?"]

[20 Mar pp 1, 2]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the greatest of ironies that causes one to reflect with bitterness was that the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH received a file from the Arab League that contained a message that makes an appeal concerning the usefulness of publishing three brochures prepared by the Arab League on the occasion of the celebration of its founding—at a time when this league appears to be the last to really be aware of, and to work in favor of, the interests of the Arab people.

The Europeans, for example, have a right to celebrate the establishment of their continental organization, the European Common Market or European Economic Community [EEC], because the EEC has not been merely an administrative structure that consumes money and capacities in order to create a wealthy class of people and not engage in anything effective worth mentioning. The EEC is an active and effective entity that has gradually changed the status of Western Europe from being a group of mutually hostile nations destroyed by ethnic battles and two world wars to being a group of nations that cooperate on the supranational level, and

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this effort was crowned in 1993 with the declaration of the European Federation.

The European Federation is not merely an alliance of nations and nationalities held together by common interests. It also has a legal, economic, and technological foundation that makes it prepared to be transformed into a higher authority that reigns above the individual sovereignty of the member nations. The EEC thus has achieved a great historical accomplishment that any observer would recognize—its astounding success in uniting its nationalities and peoples within the framework of a continental entity that more or less resembles a composite nation.

Has the Arab League even partially achieved what it was established to do, in order that its secretariat general be able to ask the Arabs to celebrate its establishment—at a time when the bodies of thousands of dead and slain Arabs lie scattered here and there? The Arab League either does not know about this, or else knows but cannot do anything about it, or else is able to at least talk about it, but chooses to do so only reluctantly. It is in a very sad state, and, as we see, it is pouring salt on the wounds.

I am not writing this article in my capacity as editor in chief of the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH. I am writing it in my capacity as former assistant secretary general for informational affairs in the Arab League. I have detailed knowledge of the Arab League's duties and tasks as well as the mechanisms of the work done by this organization, and I participated in lengthy discussions at the meetings of the secretariat general of the Arab League when I debated the problem that arose as a result of the economic war waged against Iraq by Kuwait's amirs. I am also writing in my capacity as an Arab citizen who lives in Iraq and who, with his own eyes, sees that the heinous crimes that were committed against the Arab people are the same as those that have been committed against Iraq during the last four and a half years, and we have documentation and figures that prove this and can refute any claim to the contrary.

Above all we should recall the Arab League's principles and goals, which the league was established to adhere to or carry out, because the success or failure [of the Arab League to accomplish this] constitutes the sound criterion that enables us to reach a judgment concerning this. In the brochure entitled "The 50-Year Journey of the Arab League: 1945-1995," which was published by the secretariat general, we read in the first paragraph: "The charter does not openly state these goals and principles. But they can be deduced from the texts of its articles as being the following: 1) consolidation of the numerous ties and relations that link the Arab nations to each other and the endeavor to support and strengthen them; 2) channeling Arab efforts in the direction of what benefits all of the Arab nations, and working toward improving conditions in them, providing them with a secure future, and helping them to achieve their hopes and aspirations; 3) coordination of the political plans of the Arab nations in order to achieve cooperation among them, help them maintain their independence and sovereignty, and generally to keep an eye on the affairs and interests of the Arab nations."

Obviously the most important of the things that have been mentioned is what is discussed in Article 2, which deals with the charter of the League of Arab Nations.

The vital question that cannot be ignored at this point is the following: Has the Arab League undertaken its fundamental duties during the last 50 years? We have no desire to belittle the value of the Arab League, but we have to take a look at reality in order to see the bare facts and not be influenced by emotions.

The fundamental events that have taken place in the Arab world indicate that the Arab League has not played a part in these events. For example, the Arab League played no significant role in mobilizing Arab public opinion to stand beside Egypt during the Tripartite Aggression in 1956, even though the league's headquarters was in Cairo and the league was a "division" of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the October War in 1973, when the famous Arab oil embargo was declared, this action was taken without the knowledge of the Arab League and without it playing any role at all in it. And, in spite of the gravity of the long and tragic crisis in Lebanon, the Arab League "coexisted" with this crisis without undertaking any notable role concerning it.

Perhaps the Arab League's very worst experience has been its position regarding the most significant events that have taken place in the Arab world. When the government of Anwar al-Sadat signed the two Camp David agreements with the Zionist entity [Israel], the Arab League was not present at all and played no Arab role because Sadat was not even concerned enough to inform the Arab League of his decision, although this decision was considered to be, till that time (1979), the most important event ever to have taken place in the Arab world. Then came the Tripartite Aggression against Iraq (1991), which revealed that the Arab League had deviated in a grave and destructive way from the principles for which it was established and the duties it was supposed to carry out. The Arab League was officially utilized as a means for carrying out a conspiracy against an Arab nation, since it laid the groundwork for the UN resolutions that established

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the umbrella for striking against Iraq and set up the framework for imposing the criminal blockade against that country.

In 1993, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO, signed a momentous agreement with the Zionist entity without even informing or coordinating with the league. This same thing happened when Jordan signed its peace agreement with the Zionist entity in 1994. And, Syria, at the present time, is conducting negotiations outside the framework of the league—as if the league does not even exist.

These events are merely blatant examples that either express the league's failure to play the role expected of it, or show that it is neglected and that its existence is not respected, or demonstrate how it has been transformed into a tool that carries out the worst of the policies that are hostile to the Arab people. The secretary general might protest and enumerate the accomplishments of the Arab League, and there would be some truth to what he would say. But what good does it do to give a hungry person a bowl that has no food in it and also deprive him of air, water, nourishment, and sunlight?

As an Arab living in Iraq, I will deal with just one example of the Arab League's failure and its lack of adherence to its own charter. The example is that of Iraq. Iraq was one of the most important original founding members of the Arab League. Until the blockade was imposed on Iraq, it was the member that had the best record concerning meeting its financial obligations [to the Arab League]. In fact, during various financial crises, Iraq intervened and provided immediate grants in order that the crises be overcome. This is the Iraq that the Arab League has been treating in a manner that flagrantly conflicts with its charter and traditions.

The Arab League called for the Cairo summit in August of 1990 in order to discuss the problem of Kuwait, and the summit was hastily held in Cairo. The Egyptian regime then presented a draft resolution, which the United States demanded that it present and adopt, and it called for the condemnation of Iraq. It became clear that the Arab League had engaged in collusion with the Egyptian regime when it agreed to pass the resolution when it won only a simple majority (11 versus 9), even though Article 7 of the charter only permits a resolution of condemnation if it passes unanimously, and not by means of a majority vote.

When the Cairo summit resolutions were passed and the league took action to carry them out, this showed that the league was carrying out a U.S. resolution, the passage of which the government of Husni Mubarak had taken upon itself the responsibility to accomplish so that George Bush, the war criminal, could bring about the passage of resolutions in the name of the United Nations against Iraq. This is actually what happened when one of the UN resolutions indicated that the Arab League condemned Iraq and agreed to the acceptance of the presence of foreign forces [in the Arab world].

Someone might protest and say that the league was under pressure from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United States and thus accepted these resolutions that conflicted with the league's charter. Such a statement would be based on a theory adopted by the officials of the secretariat general, which says that the Arab League is merely a secretarial body, has no power, and has to carry out what is dictated to it. This position was also taken by Mr. As'ad al-As'ad, the deputy secretary general, in the meetings of the secretariat general during the crisis.

If we accept this theory, then we are thereby putting the last nail in the coffin of the Arab League, because the goals and principles that it adopted theoretically make it an active body that undertakes a role that is independent of the individual Arab governments and enables it to express the collective will of the Arabs. In other words, the secretariat general, if it were strong and independent of any Arab government, would be able to be a body that takes the initiative and enjoys a large measure of authority that would enable it to achieve fundamental accomplishments of the sort that have been accomplished by the secretariat general of the EEC, which studied all of the vital issues and furnished solutions and laws dealing with them to be adopted by the EEC.

The really sad thing is that numerous Arab parties, particularly the governments of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have not treated the Arab League as a pan-Arab body. They have dealt with it as a body that is politically subordinate to Egypt and economically subordinate to Saudi Arabia. This is what causes Mr. As'ad al-As'ad's theory to be an expression of the reality of the situation rather than the official function of the league.

The image of the league as being subordinate to, and in the coattails of, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has come to the fore in a ghastly way since months and years have gone by since the aggression against Iraq and it has become clear to the Arab League that the people of Iraq are being subjected to genocide. Every month, 17,000 Iraqis die because of the blockade, and a million Iraqis have died during the last four years because of it. Also, Iraq's sovereignty has been violated, and is still being violated every day, by the United States and Saudi Arabia, and its territorial integrity has been both officially and actually encroached upon through the use

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of U.S. weapons to separate the north of Iraq from the rest of the country.

[21 Mar pp 1, 2]

Iraq has informed, and still periodically informs, the Arab League of all that has happened in the way of violations of its sovereignty, encroachments on its territorial integrity, and crimes of genocide that are being committed against the Iraqi people as a result of the prohibition of food and medicines. Nevertheless, the people of Iraq have yet to see any step taken by the secretariat general of the Arab League to support them in accordance with the charter of the Arab League. What is even worse, as far as the psychological effect on the Iraqi people is concerned, is the fact that the secretary general of the Arab League, Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, has taken positions that could, at the very least, be described as strange.

After the league played its role of providing an Arab cover for the aggression against Iraq and the imposition of the blockade of genocide against the Iraqi people, we saw the secretary general remain silent in the face of the tragedy of the Iraqi people, as if he saw no such problem. All of the Arab League's memoranda concerning Iraq remained in the drawers of the desks—with no comments being made concerning Iraq's plight. It became clear that the Arab League, in the years 1991-93, chose the tactic of silence and ignoring the plight of the Iraqi people and the fact that the Iraqi nation was being subjected to horrible violations. It was as if Iraq were in another galaxy in the universe rather than in the Arab world.

What made every Iraqi even more bitter was the fact that the league showed enthusiastic concern about Bosnia-Hercegovina, whereas Iraq was forgotten.

The situation changed for the worse during 1993 and later on. Iraq's compliance with its basic obligations concerning lifting the blockade, which were set by Resolution 687, gave rise to essential regional and international developments such as the reversals in the positions of Russia, France, China, and other nations and their demand that the blockade be lifted in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Many countries that are nonpermanent members [of the UN Security Council], such as Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria, and others, supported this demand. Thus, the world witnessed a change in the positions of nations that had fervently supported the aggression against Iraq, such as France, from that of following a hard-line policy against Iraq to that of adopting a position of flexibility and demanding that the economic blockade be lifted. We also saw Arab nations, such as Morocco, demanding that the blockade be lifted, even though their forces had participated in the aggression against Iraq. We even saw Egyptian officials, who possess a human conscience and a sense of commitment to the Arab world, demanding that the blockade be lifted since it is a human tragedy.

These reversals in positions should have included the Arab League, and, in fact, the Arab League should have taken the lead in this matter, before any Arab or non-Arab nation. The reason for this is that, according to the sources we have cited, the Arab League is responsible for defending the interests of the Arabs and the sovereignty of the Arab countries. But the really sad fact is that the secretary general, after his apparent silence, chose to do what was illogical and disappointing. We did not see him play the role expected of the secretary general of the League of Arab Nations, which is the role of an impartial mediator who tries to bring points of view closer together. Instead of this, we saw him defend the most extreme interpretation of the Kuwaiti and American positions vis-a-vis Iraq.

Mr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made several statements, while in Cairo and during his latest tour of the Gulf area, in which he demanded that Iraq release the "Kuwaiti prisoners," return Kuwait's "property," carry out "all" of the Security Council resolutions, and pay compensation before the economic blockade is lifted. These demands, that he presented as conditions for the lifting of the blockade from the backs of the Iraqi people, are not consistent with the UN resolutions, because the economic blockade is linked only to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear installations, and missiles, that is, it is linked to carrying out the demands of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. It would seem that Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid has not read the UN resolutions. If we assume that he has both read and understood them and still links the economic blockade to the previously mentioned conditions, then this forces us to make conclusions that would not at all be flattering to him.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid has even gone so far as to adopt the terms used by the Kuwaiti Government. He has used the term "prisoners" instead of "missing persons," and he is aware of the circumstances at the bottom of this matter.

This position taken by Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid, when compared with the positions of France, Russia, China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and other non-Arab nations, shows that he is lagging behind those nations, even though he is an Arab and is head of the Arab League and, therefore, is supposed to be the moral, national, and official defender of the Iraqi people before any non-Arab should be. Have matters with the Arab League reached the point where we find non-Arab nations, some of

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whom participated in the aggression against Iraq, changing their positions and demanding that the economic blockade be lifted, whereas the secretary general insists on prolonging the campaign of genocide being waged against the Iraqi people and subjecting those Iraqis still left alive to a life of suffering, which they will never forget, when he says that Iraq should "make it easy to lift the blockade"?

The strangest thing of all is that the secretary general has forgotten the logic and traditions that govern the performance of his official position. In his capacity as secretary general of the Arab League, he should be neutral and balanced in his dealings with the various parties involved in Arab crises, should avoid taking sides with any party, and should keep to himself his personal feelings and positions, if he has any such feelings or positions, in order to guarantee that his work be successful.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid made a trip around the Arab countries in order to seek reconciliation, and he was supposed to meet with all the parties involved, listen to their points of view, and then try to reconcile them. But, unfortunately, he not only adopted the points of view of Kuwait and the United States; he also scandalously avoided visiting Iraq. His impartiality and serious approach could only have been shown by a visit to Iraq, as long as he had visited Kuwait and other nations, even though we should emphasize that a visit by him to Iraq would not have done anything for Iraq, but it would have "gotten him off the hook," and it would have served him as secretary general of the Arab League.

He crowned his trip with a statement that he made in which he considered that Iraq was responsible for the Arab world being torn asunder, because he said that Iraq should correct the mistakes that it had made in order that it be possible to achieve an Arab reconciliation.

Where are the impartiality and objectivity? Where are the leadership traditions of a regional organization? In the sixties, seventies, and eighties, the Arab League played the role of mediator and impartial party, to an extreme degree, and observed principles, traditions, and protocol. Now, however, it is not interested in any of that, but rather is engaging in actions that encourage people to accuse it of being partial to this or that party.

Is this conceivable? Could a party be so biased as to make Iraq responsible for the dismemberment of the Arab world, the roots of which go back to the time before the establishment of the Arab League?

When Sudan proposed that the matter of lifting the blockade from the backs of the Iraqi people be discussed in the next meeting of the Arab League's council, we heard news that we did not believe at first. The news was that the Arab League was "pressuring" Sudan to withdraw its proposal in order to avoid a split in the Arab League.

This news was not a "Zionist intrigue." It was an actual fact. The news also informed us that Sudan did withdraw its proposal. It is as if a split in the Arab League were more important than the death of millions of Iraqis. Furthermore, Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid realizes that the split will continue and become even wider if the blockade continues rather than being lifted. Mr. Secretary General, do you know what all of this means?

It simply means that the Arab League is accepting the tragedy of the genocide being waged against the Iraqi people. If the blockade is prolonged, this will be the result, and if the Arab League continues to adhere to this biased position against Iraq, it will end up being a direct participant in this butchery. This is particularly true since the large, middle-size, and small non-Arab nations, which now constitute a majority [in the United Nations], have begun to demand the lifting of the blockade from the backs of the Iraqi people. Is it possible to imagine the reaction of the Iraqi citizens, who are being tortured by this blockade, to this position?

Does [Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid] know what the long-term effects of this position will be on the directions taken by Iraqi public opinion, when the Iraqis expect him to adopt a position that is at least as positive as that of the positions of the non-Arabs?

The Iraqi people are fully aware of the fact that the nations that are against lifting the economic blockade are the United States, Britain, the Zionist entity, the regime of Husni Mubarak, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi people will remember the names, faces, and positions [of their enemies] because of the blood of the victims and the crime of military aggression against Iraq. Iraqi blood is neither free nor cheap, especially since the number of Iraqi victims has already exceeded that of any other Arab loss, with the exception of the martyrs of the Algerian revolution, who numbered 1.5 million. Iraqi citizens, then, are no longer ready to talk about niceties when it comes to the blockade, and they have started to say what needs to be said to the faces of those who are contributing to the murder of Iraqis.

The Arab League's position with regard to Iraq is something that, in itself, raises an enormous question. It is a position that will have a decisive effect on the fate of the Arab League. In view of what has been said above, it is not logical to expect the tortured Iraqis, who are living with death, the blockade, and constant foreign aggression, to smile at the Arab League, applaud

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it, and say to its secretary general: "Congratulations on the occasion of your 50th birthday!"

Yes, if the position of the Arab League were like the positions of the foreigners who fought against Iraq, such as France, and then changed their positions, then it would be possible for Iraqis to put on a smile, in spite of their wounds, and say: "Congratulations!" But, since the league is remaining in the ranks of those who are calling for the extermination of the Iraqi people and for their suffering to be made even worse, then the Iraqis' integrity and sense of principle do not allow them to lie and resort to saying niceties.

We will not tell the Arab League: "Congratulations!" We will tell the league: "Start moving in the direction of Iraq right now, or else the movement in your ranks will open up to you the gates of a cemetery of eternal silence. The world is changing, and the Arab world is moving in directions that lead away from Uncle Sam." We cannot hope for the blockade to be lifted while the league is in the other camp, because then we would be saying words that could not be understood by the minds of those who are supporters of the "yes-man" theory or the theory that says that one should close his eyes, in order not to see anything, and close his ears, in order not to hear anything, and give people's consciences permission not to scream.

In the time of the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the Arab League was directed by the Egyptian Government within the framework of a general campaign of nationalistic missionary activity. During Sadat's time the Arabs were forced to move the Arab League outside Egypt. When the league returned to Egypt, it became a "division" of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the person who became secretary general was Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid, an old man whom we wish long life to, but who began confusing his job as secretary general of the Arab League with his old job of Egyptian foreign minister under Husni Mubarak.

Mr. Secretary General, I hope that you do not forget that you are no longer Egypt's foreign minister, but rather that you now represent all Arabs everywhere. When you speak in the name of the Arab League, I realize that you have not forgotten this, and this is something that impels me to bring up a very insistent and sharp question, which is: Would you please explain why the Arab League carries out all the orders of Mr. Husni Mubarak? Also, would you please be so kind as to give us a hint as to the reason for another strange irony, which is the fact that the correct hypothesis, which says that the Arab League, under your leadership, has once more become a division of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and unhesitatingly carries out all of its demands, is no longer sufficient to explain your very strange position with regard to the tragedy of the Iraqi people? The government of Mr. Husni Mubarak, after seeing the administration of Bill Clinton dig a grave for it, has now changed its tune and, in one form or another, with shyness and hesitation, is calling for the blockade against Iraq to be lifted. Perhaps the articles published by the official Egyptian press that present opinions demanding the lifting of the blockade are an indication of this orientation. Mr. Secretary General, this has made some people expect you to modify your position in the direction of demands to lift the blockade.

But, this has not happened, and you have remained a prisoner of the most extreme conditions set by Kuwait for the lifting of the blockade. What does this mean? Have you "freed yourself" from the mentality of confusing your job as secretary general of the Arab League with your former job as Egyptian foreign minister? If you really have freed yourself from being a victim of this confusion, then you are now falling victim to another type of confusion that is even much worse and more dangerous. You are acting in accordance with Kuwait's conditions for an Arab reconciliation and for lifting the blockade against Iraq. Mr. Secretary General, is there an explanation for these astounding ironies? We will remain silent and will not reply to this question, even though the eyes of 500,000 Iraqi children, who were killed by the blockade that you are, in practice, defending the continuation of, possess the answer that is all too obvious.

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Levi Faction To Discuss Split From Likud

TA0106133095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] MK [Knesset Member] David Levi yesterday announced a national meeting of his camp activists on June 18, when he intends to announce he is quitting the Likud and establishing a new party.

Last-ditch efforts to prevent the split in the party will be made at party headquarters in Metzudat Ze'ev today.

The crisis between Levi and Likud leader MK Binyamin Netanyahu peaked yesterday, when Levi learned that huge ads will be published in today's newspapers announcing the Likud's central committee meeting next Monday. Levi views Netanyahu's holding the meeting as a casus belli and, as a result, gave his people the go-ahead to convene. Levi and his people object to the primary proposal which the central committee will be asked to approve. They are angry that Netanyahu set the committee meeting without coordinating with the committee's chairman, Maxim Levy, and believe it means Netanyahu will shut them out of the party representation. [passage omitted] Netanyahu wants to meet privately with Levi to smooth over their differences, but Levi has conditioned such a meeting on Netanyahu canceling the party committee meeting.

By yesterday, all the mediation attempts between Levi and Netanyahu had failed. Levi's people had already reserved the hall for the camp gathering earlier this week, but refrained from announcing this, perhaps in the hope that a compromise would be reached with Netanyahu and the split would be avoided.

But when Levi learned of the plans to publish the ads today, he issued a statement that his decision was made.

Sources said that in crises such as these, a solution might still be found at the very last moment. They expressed confidence that today, in marathon consultations at Likud headquarters, the two sides would reach a compromise.

Levi's people, however, said there is no going back and that the split is final.

Levi May Quit Soon

TA0106142995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member David Levi has announced that he will leave the Likud next Tuesday, 6 June, if the Central Committee convenes on 5 June. David Levi made the announcement to his closest colleagues in consultations behind closed doors.

Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that Levi made the decision this morning, after he saw the reports about the Central Committee's convening on 5 June. Levi said Netanyahu is determined to push him and his people out of the Likud.

Rabin: Referendum To Precede Golan Withdrawal

TA0106161495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Israel will not sign a peace agreement with Syria that calls for a significant withdrawal without holding a national referendum first. Addressing the United Kibbutz Movement, which expressed concern that the decision might go against the government, Rabin asked: Why are you afraid of the people who will decide? Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i attended the prime minister's meeting with the movement at the Tel Aviv Museum:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Rabin] If and when this government reaches a peace treaty with Syria and should it go beyond what we have said, we will ask the people to decide in a national referendum. Those who fear a decision by the people have a problem. If everybody is certain that the majority is opposed to a withdrawal, why are they seeking legislation for a special Knesset majority to approve a Golan withdrawal? If they are certain that the majority will vote against, why do they want a special majority in a national referendum? Why are you afraid of a decision by the people? There will be no commitment and we will not sign any peace treaty that calls for a significant withdrawal without presenting it in its entirety to the nation and asking it whether it is in favor or opposed. The people will decide. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabin: Strong Army Is Answer to 'Surprises'

TA0106115495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that as long as there is no peace with Syria, the army must be prepared to defend the current border and be ready to perform any task. He stressed that a strong army is the answer to surprises.

This morning, the prime minister, the chief of staff, the commander of the Northern Command, and the commander of the Ground Forces observed the conclusion of a Golani Brigade exercise on the Golan Heights.

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Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the prime minister was asked to comment on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remark that the Golan is not sacred land. In response Rabin said: I am standing on tank land.

Peres: al-Asad Must Confer in 'Broad Daylight'

TA0106191895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Washington that the time has come for Syrian President al-Asad to confer with Prime Minister Rabin in broad daylight. Peace requires al-Asad and Rabin, as well as others in positions of leadership, to confer in broad daylight and discuss their differences of opinion, Peres said in a lecture to the Center for Strategic Studies in Washington. He also said that President al-Asad cannot be shy if he wants peace and that the time has come to meet. Such a meeting is a psychological necessity, because the sides must convince each other that their peace intentions are serious.

Following his talks with Egypt's President Mubarak in Damascus today, President al-Asad said there is no need to raise the level of the talks with Israel for the time being.

Peres Reaffirms Talks on Territories 'Serious'

TA0206105795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Hillel Kuttler and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sought to assure the Palestinians yesterday that Israel is serious about continuing negotiations with the Palestinian Authority over the territories.

In a lecture here before the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Peres said: "The Palestinians were suspicious that we want to have Gaza first and stop and not go further. They are wrong. We had Gaza First. We are trying to have the West Bank following up, because the West Bank, like Gaza in many parts, is not a piece of land but a group of people."

Tension between settlers and Palestinians, rather than the settlers themselves, is the primary obstacle to a resolution in the territories, Peres added.

"In the West Bank... it is clear which is the majority and which is the minority, and I don't think the problem (is) the settlements or the settlers," he said. "The problem is the relations between the settlers and the Palestinians. If we can change the relations, we shall not have a problem."

Peres later told Israeli journalists that he could foresee a final status solution that would leave West Bank settlements intact.

Peres's comments clashed with those made before a Senate subcommittee two weeks ago by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who said the settlements make final status negotiations among the most difficult "of all time."

Peres also told journalists that in meetings yesterday with the US peace team and with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, he emphasized the importance of discussing the benefits of peace with Syria, and not just Israel's eventual territorial concessions.

"We have to investigate the fruits of peace with Syria. Many Arab states love the slogan 'Territory for peace.' But so far we don't see that they can deliver the peace. We hope that an agreement with Syria will be the end of the peace process, the end of the state of war in the Middle East. It can't be another peace, another agreement. I said (to the Americans) we have to give an answer to the country on what is the meaning of peace with Syria."

Peres also said that details on the continuation of talks with Damascus will be clarified following the upcoming visits to the region of Christopher and peace team coordinator Dennis Ross. [passage omitted]

Peres: No Intention To Seize Jerusalem Land

LD3105133095 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, May 31 (MAP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Wednesday Moroccan 'LE MATIN DU SAHARA ET DU MAGHREB' daily that Israel clearly announced that it had no intention to confiscate land in al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Peres, who recalled that the al-Quds issue is to be discussed in a later phase, said life goes on normally in the holy city not only for Jews but for the Palestinians as well.

Both Palestinians and Israelis harbor deep respect for King Hassan II for his experience, wisdom, determination and role he plays in the deep change that is taking place in the Middle East, Peres said.

The Israeli minister, who underlined that the Israeli Labor Party chose the path of peace instead of winning the coming elections, warned that if the Likud Party wins the elections it will reactivate the settlement policy which will pose difficulties.

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On the economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa held end of last year in Casablanca, Peres said the gathering was a historic event thanks to the courage of King Hassan II. The conference paved the way for economic development and ushered in a new era of relations in the Middle East, he argued.

'The true problem is to know whether the Middle East is prepared to enter the 21st century, the century of market economy', he said adding that land and material resources lost much of their importance.

As to the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, Peres said it is the first time Israelis and Syrians agreed to start serious talks on the security problem which is the most important.

Peres had previously told an Israeli daily that Israel does not want to continue controlling Syrian land and had admitted that the Golan, annexed by Israel in 1981, is a Syrian territory.

Police Minister Denies Rabin Shelved Separation Plan

TA3105180995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 May 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal today denied media reports to the effect that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had turned down the proposals presented by him regarding the separation plan between the territories and Israel. Mr. Shahal stressed that the border guard forces have drawn up the preliminary arrangements relating to the separation plan, especially in the Janin and Qalqilyah areas.

In an exclusive interview with our police affairs correspondent Kayid Zahir, Minister Shahal added that he was orally notified by Dr. Nabil Sha'th that three Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem associated with the Palestinian Authority were closed down.

Source: al-Asad Interested in Advancing Peace

TA0206111795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "There are quite clear indications that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is interested in advancing the peace process with Israel. During the past year, he made clear-cut declarations and moves in that direction, but Israeli public opinion preferred to ignore them. Nevertheless, al-Asad will not show his cards until the last moment, and from his point of view, that will be in another six to nine months." This was said yesterday by a source deeply involved in the Syrian-Israeli political process on the eve of the resumption of the process next week.

Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. peace team, will arrive in Israel Monday [5 June] and Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive on Thursday. [passage omitted]

In the same source's view, the officers' talks will deal with all the issues pertaining to the security arrangements, including the prevention of a surprise offensive, ways to foil crises, early warning stations, the thinning out of forces, the size of the forces, etc.

Up to now, Jerusalem and Damascus have put the stress on the price that they would have to pay for peace. Christopher and Ross will try to emphasize the fruit of the peace to all the sides. U.S. President Bill Clinton has been involved in the Syrian track from the very first week of his tenure. Due to the importance of Middle East peace, he will be prepared to invest further efforts in that track. His involvement is not vital at present since the gaps between the two sides is large.

It is clear to al-Asad that the moment peace is signed with Israel he will have to cease the aid he provides to the 10 Rejectionist Front organizations located in Damascus and Hizballah in south Lebanon.

Israel demands that as part of the peace agreement all the foreign forces leave Lebanon. We must recall, however, that if the Syrian Army quits Lebanon the Lebanese Army will find it very difficult to prevent Hizballah activity in south Lebanon.

It is clear that peace with Syria means simultaneously or immediately afterward, peace between Israel and Lebanon and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. An Israeli-Syrian peace will also have a dramatic impact on Israel's attitude toward the Arab states not bordering on Israel. That is why the United States is investing so much energy in the Syrian track.

The Israeli source said the gaps between Syria and Israel are still large on several issues of substance. Israel and Syria are satisfied with the American involvement. It seems that there are no secret channels of dialogue.

Syria, for internal Arab reasons, is not interested in Egyptian involvement and mediation, while the United States is interested. Al-Asad is handling the negotiations with Israel himself and is extremely cautious. In the latest negotiations on the resumption of the officers' talks, the United States has not presented its own working paper although that does not mean it will not do so in the future. [passage omitted]

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Government To Abide by U.S. Limit on Ofeq-3 Photos

TA0106105895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of U.S. entrepreneurs, in cooperation with Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], has proposed to the Defense Ministry to sell the photographs of the Ofeq-3 satellite on the international market, and thus finance part of the project in the future.

According to these entrepreneurs, Israel today has an absolute edge in the world market of photograph satellites because no other satellite on the market can provide as high-quality and timely photographs as the Ofeq-3. In their approach to the Defense Ministry, they stressed that Israel today has a business opportunity which will not last many years.

The private U.S. entrepreneurs approached the Defense Ministry last year with a proposal to join the project as partners. They signed a cooperation agreement with IAI and initially proposed to launch Ofeq-3 aboard a Russian rocket, more potent than the Israeli Shavit launcher. The Defense Ministry held contacts with them, but in the end it decided to wait until the Israeli satellite was launched aboard the Shavit.

The entrepreneurs now propose to market the Ofeq-3 photographs through a network of approximately 10 ground control stations for satellite communications spread all over the world. These stations currently receive satellite photographs from the commercial satellites Landsat and Spot, whose performance is far inferior to that of the Israeli satellite. The directors of the ground control stations are due in Israel next week to attend the first technological seminar.

In addition to that, Israel has been approached by foreign governments interested in purchasing satellite photographs.

The United States had demanded that Israel limit the sale of Ofeq-3 photographs on the international market. U.S. sources said: "We are not prepared to have Israel compete with us." At the same time, Israel asked the United States not to supply satellite photographs of Israel's territory to Saudi Arabia. The Americans countered that they were prepared to restrict themselves but they object to commercial competition with Israel.

The U.S. Administration granted licenses to three firms to develop photograph satellites for the commercial market, but development lags behind Israel's Ofeq project and the U.S. satellites will be placed in orbit only in about three years. The Defense Ministry reached an understanding with the administration whereby Israel would abide by the U.S. rules with regard to the marketing of satellite photographs. In exchange, the United States agreed not to provide photographs of Israel to Saudi Arabia.

The day after Ofeq's launch, IAI director Moshe Qeret asked the Defense Ministry's director general for permission to provide additional information about Ofeq-3 as well as instructions on how to proceed in response to questions about the satellite when these crop up at the upcoming Paris air show. The Defense Ministry has not yet answered him.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had categorically objected to the project and demanded to cancel it. About two years ago, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq demanded to close down the project. Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri convinced Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, to allocate a budget to go ahead with the project until its successful launch.

Government Signs Treaty Banning 'Inhumane' Arms

TA0106141895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has signed the international treaty to ban the use of "inhumane" conventional weapons. Israel signed two of the treaty's three protocols, which limit the use of antipersonnel mines and antipersonnel weapons that scatter minuscule fragments. Like the United States, Israel decided not to sign the third protocol, which bans the use of incendiary weapons such as napalm.

Israel signed the treaty at the recommendation of the Foreign Ministry, which is trying to get it to take part in the international effort to curtail the spreading use of antipersonnel mines, which have caused deaths and many injuries in countries at war. According to Red Cross assessments, between 1,000 and 1,500 people are wounded around the world each month by mines, most of which have remained in the ground after wars ended in countries like Angola, Afghanistan, Mozambique, and Cambodia.

Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano met early in the week with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in Venice and asked him for Israeli aid to clear the many mines in his country. The Foreign Ministry is now studying the possibility of dispatching an Israeli expert in mine clearance to work at the UN center in Angola. The initiative is facing obstacles because of

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funding problems and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] lack of enthusiasm.

The treaty Israel signed sets down tough rules on the use of antipersonnel mines. Last year, Israel joined the international moratorium on the sale of antipersonnel mines and announced that it will not export them. Israel signed the conventional weapons treaty on 25 March so that it can take effect in September, on the eve of the conference that will review the treaty, which Israel wishes to attend. A new draft formula that sets tougher restrictions on the use of mines has already been prepared. The draft is now being studied by Israel prior to the initial discussions, which will be held later in the month in Budapest.

Knesset Approves Transfer of Funds to PA

TA0106102195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After more than 10 hours of debate over three days, a bill authorizing the transfer of funds to the Palestinian Authority [PA] passed a second and third reading in the Knesset last night, 30 to 23.

The bill will allow the government to give the PA an amount worth 75 percent of the income taxes, VAT and other taxes paid by workers from the territories, who are legally employed and not residents of the autonomous areas. A similar agreement is already in force for residents of Gaza and Jericho.

Some NIS 25 million [new Israeli shekels] a month will be transferred, starting from the end of this month. Since the law has been held up in the Knesset since March, some NIS 102 million has already been transferred on account.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said the law allows Israel to abide by its agreement signed with the Palestinians in Paris last year. The money is intended for use in the areas in which the Palestinians have been given early empowerment, including education, welfare and tourism.

The opposition submitted 200 reservations to the bill, and the debate was used as an opportunity to attack the government's peace policies.

Although there was little doubt that the law would pass, Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Kohen ordered that one Labor MK [Knesset member] and a minister be present in the plenum throughout all the hours of debate, to prevent a situation in which the opposition would suddenly drop their reservations and hold the vote before the coalition could muster its forces to assure its passage.

Al-Husayni To Seek Permit for Jerusalem Building

TA0106144695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni has undertaken to apply for a permit for the construction at Orient House in East Jerusalem, after illegal construction was discovered at the site. This was agreed in a meeting between David Biton, head of the Jerusalem Municipality's Building Supervision Department, and Faysal al-Husayni. If the application for a permit for the construction that has already been carried out is not presented within two weeks, the municipality will issue a demolition order.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky notes that Orient House has already demolished the exterior construction put up in the yard without the necessary permit.

Israelis, Palestinians Polled on Divided Jerusalem

TA0106133895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A poll conducted to measure Israeli and Palestinian support for different solutions to Jerusalem's final status indicates that the two sides are less polarized than usually thought.

Close to a majority on both sides are prepared to divide the city, with Israel having sovereignty over all Jewish neighborhoods over the Green Line, while support for the publicly stated political solutions, undivided Israeli sovereignty versus division along Green Line, is less than unanimous.

At the two poles, the survey showed that 76 percent of Israelis very largely, largely, or moderately support exclusive Israeli sovereignty over all Jerusalem while 67 percent of Palestinians want to divide sovereignty along the pre-Six Day War border.

But the poll also showed that 44 percent of Israelis are prepared to accept Israeli sovereignty only over west Jerusalem and Jewish areas across the Green Line, while 47 percent of Palestinians are ready to accept that solution.

The poll was conducted by Gallup Israel among 594 Israelis over 18 from around the country for the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information. It was also conducted by DATA studies among 500 Palestinians chosen according to Palestinian Bureau of Statistics population distribution. Margin of error is 3.4 percent.

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The survey asked Israelis and Palestinians what they thought the other side would think of each proposal, and the assessment by each side of the other were reasonably accurate. For example, 68 percent of Israelis thought the Palestinians preferred divided sovereignty, while Palestinians assumed that 83 percent of Israelis wanted undivided sovereignty.

General Testifies to Knesset on 'Terror Attacks'

TA0106060395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 May 95 p A6

[Report by Gid'on Alon and Tzvi Zerahya]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] succeeded in foiling terror attacks Hizballah planned to perpetrate in south Lebanon thanks to the intensive activities it initiated," Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i disclosed yesterday in a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Vilna'i pointed out that a continuous war is under way in south Lebanon. According to him, our activities are now successful, but one must bear in mind that when referring to the situation in the security zone we talk in terms of "the situation at the moment." He stressed that Hizballah is our main enemy in south Lebanon and that no other organization can operate there without Hizballah's approval. "Hizballah is sensitive to casualties among the civilian population in Lebanon and feels a commitment toward the civilian population hit by the IDF's cannons," Vilna'i said.

A senior Intelligence Branch officer noted that every month there are 40-50 terror attacks in south Lebanon.

Referring to the situation in the West Bank, Vilna'i noted that there has been a significant drop in the number of terror attacks in the territories, which has enabled the IDF to reduce its troops. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 30 May reports that, according to Vilna'i, terror attacks in the "Gaza Strip" have dropped drastically, leading to a reduction of IDF troops in the area.] According to him, the troops serving in the territories at the moment consist mainly of regular soldiers and Border Police units and only a few are reservists.

Turning to the situation in the Gaza Strip, Vilna'i said that the number of infiltrations from the Gaza Strip into Israel's territory had dropped to almost nil in the wake of the building of the border fence, which is nearing completion. According to him, during his tenure as commander of the Southern Command, dozens of infiltrations from the Gaza Strip into Israel occurred every night. He pointed out that vandalization of the border fence by Palestinians had also decreased drastically. Vilna'i stressed that the arrests of Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] by the Palestinian Authority [PA] had led to a drop in the number of terrorist attacks.

Labor Knesset Member [MK] Nisim Zvili asked him: "Has the PA reached an accord with Islamic Jihad and Hamas to cease terrorist activities against Israel?"

Major General Vilna'i replied: "Declarations made by the PA in Gaza say that an agreement has been reached. We do not know whether this means an accord or an understanding. Ever since the Bet Lid bombing, the PA's performance has improved considerably. The bombing made them get a better understanding of the issue. We will always demand from them to achieve more, but I must point out that they try. There is cooperation between us, and at times, in the event of fire incidents, coordination at the level of battalion commanders suffices."

Labor MK Ori Or, the committee's chairman, asked him about the attitude of the population in Gaza to the arrest of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists. Are they indifferent to the PLO's actions against Hamas and Islamic Jihad?

Vilna'i replied: "There is a correlation between the economic situation in the Gaza Strip and the attitude of the Palestinian public to the arrest of Hamas and Islamic Jihad members. As the economic situation improves, the support of the population for the rejectionist organizations will decrease."

The deputy chief of staff lashed out at Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the PA's Preventive Security Service. According to him, "the man tried to spread his wings, but these were snipped by the PA and the IDF. The situation today is different from the days when al-Rujub saw himself as the king of Judaea and Samaria."

MK Ran Kohen, chairman of the Meretz faction, urged the deputy chief of staff not to hold back the IDF's redeployment in the territories in anticipation of the implementation of the second phase of the agreement with the PLO. Maj. Gen. Vilna'i replied that the IDF would act in accordance with the decisions of the political level. According to him, the army will take all necessary steps in order not to be the one that holds back the redeployment.

[A report by Daniyel Ben-Simon on page 1 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 31 May quotes Vilna'i as telling the committee that the decision to cut reserve duty would remain in effect "as long as the security situation does not change significantly. We undertook huge risks and I had very tough arguments with the regional

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commanders, who are actually directly responsible for daily operations."

[Referring to the situation in south Lebanon, Vilna'i is quoted as saying that "our main enemy in the security zone is Hizballah," and that "no other organization can operate there without its approval. They are sensitive about casualties in their midst and they have a commitment toward the local population being hurt by Israel."

[Turning to the situation in the Gaza Strip, the chief of staff is quoted as saying that "at one time dozens of infiltrations occurred every night. Now even the incidence of vandalization of the fence has decreased." Vilna'i is also cited as telling the committee that the large-scale arrests conducted by the PA "have led to a drop in the number of terrorist attacks on Israeli targets."

[Commenting on relations between the PA and the IDF, Vilna'i is cited as saying that "the PA's work has improved considerably since the Bet Lid bombing. The incident made them understand the Israeli position with regard to terror better. I must point out that they are improving. There is cooperation between us, to the extent that it is necessary, and in the event of exchanges of fire coordination at the level of battalion commanders suffices."]

Many Hamas, Islamic Jihad Members Arrested Since Oct

TA0106072795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] More than 3,500 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists have been arrested since the Dizengoff bus attack last October. [passage omitted]

Israeli security forces are attempting to reduce the activities of the Palestinian security forces, headed by Jibril al-Rujub, in the West Bank. This according to senior Israeli military sources. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the security forces arrested a member of al-Rujub's security force in Qalqilyah and closed down his office. In Janin, three members of al-Rujub's security force were arrested on suspicion of murdering Palestinian collaborators. The Israeli military sources stressed that al-Rujub has gone too far, and Israel will not allow his forces to kidnap and harm residents of the West Bank.

Court Sentences Spies for Hizballah, Syria

TA0106132695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jun 95 p 17

[Report by Yisra'el Moshcovitz]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nazareth District Court yesterday disclosed two cases of espionage for Hizballah and Syrian intelligence.

Mahmud Hamid Qassam Hamud, a resident of Lebanon, was convicted of aggravated espionage for Hizballah and given a prison sentence of eight and a half years and a three-year suspended sentence.

Asaf Tawfiq Haydar, a Syrian citizen, was convicted of attempting to spy for Syrian intelligence and given a six-year prison sentence and a two-year suspended sentence.

'Terrorist' To Be Retried; Imam's Home Raided

TA0106170595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Ramallah military appeals court has ordered a retrial in the case of a Palestinian who was sentenced to death for plotting a fatal bus bombing. Sa'id Badarnah was sentenced to death about three months ago for involvement in the Hadera terrorist attack last year. [passage omitted]

The military court in Hebron has sentenced Musa Muhammad Salim-al-Din to life in prison after finding him guilty of killing a soldier two and a half years ago. The court also sentenced two senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Bayt Jala to six and eight years in prison.

Security forces have raided the home of the imam of the village of 'Abud near Ramallah and confiscated documents. Military sources said the spiritual leader was suspected of activities in support of Hamas.

Near Nabulus, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces discovered two homemade weapons, two axes, and ammunition.

Hamas 'Terrorist' Killed in Hebron Shoot-Out

TA0206104795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces killed a wanted terrorist in Hebron after demolishing the house in which he had barricaded himself. Our correspondents Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Zaqen report that this morning the security forces were combing the Hebron and Halhul areas in search of terrorists when a shoot-out with a terrorist began near the university. The security

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forces laid siege to the building, fired several antitank rockets at it, and then demolished it with bulldozers. A search of the demolished building uncovered the body of the terrorist.

Minor riots took place in Hebron this morning, and consequently a curfew was clamped on the city.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 2 June notes that the "terrorist" was a member of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. The report adds: "In Halhul, an Egged bus driver has been slightly injured in a stone-throwing attack. He was given first aid on the spot and continued on his route.

["Near Tiv'on, police this morning stopped an Israeli bus with 50 students from al-Najah University in Nabulus. The students, who did not have permits to enter Israel, were on an organized tour. Police this week arrested more than 1,500 Palestinians staying illegally in Israel. They returned to the territories and were fined, as were 80 of their Israeli employers."]

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Al-Kabariti Denies U.S. 'Backing Down' on Aid

MM0106141995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 May 95 p 4

[Unattributed report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has revealed that U.S.-Jordanian negotiations on U.S. financial and military aid for Jordan are currently in progress. In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, he said that these negotiations will continue for some time before we can say that a complete aid program has been agreed upon.

Al-Kabariti added: But it is hoped that by the end of this year, and on the occasion of the October economic conference in Amman, there will be an announcement of a "package" of investment and economic programs that will have a positive effect on the Jordanian economy.

Answering a question on military aid, the minister said: We sense an American understanding of Jordan's military and financial needs. On the military side, there are agreements which have been honored and there are also negotiations on expanding the military cooperation programs.

There was some considerable controversy in Jordanian circles recently after the publication of reports that the Americans were backing down on the question of economic aid for Jordan. Al-Kabariti denies this. He says that it is not a question of backing down, but of needs and requirements which Jordan sees as necessary and which the donor side is studying in the context of new factors dictated by U.S. local circumstances, highlighted by the recent U.S. election results, particularly as Congress has frequently expressed a desire to reduce financial aid to levels sometimes amounting to complete cancellation of aid, something which would be contrary to U.S. strategic interests and which would jeopardize its leading role in the world. We hope that, with time, these factors will be overcome and Jordan's needs fulfilled.

On the question of writing off Jordan's debts, al-Kabariti said: "There was an appropriation covering 270 million dinars of the balance of Jordan's debts, $480 million [as published], in this year's U.S. budget. That was agreed between the finance committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives."

He added: The problem, as far as completion of that matter is concerned, is that the finance committees linked the "appropriation" of that sum to cuts of more than $16 billion in the 1995 budget, cuts which the U.S. Administration does not approve of and which it has vetoed.

The administration and Congress are now trying to reach agreement regarding these cuts. If such an agreement is reached, then one could say that the "exemption" will be complete for Jordan's debts, but if no agreement is reached, the matter would then go back to the two finance committees in the form of a bill, and that, of course, would take time.

We in the Jordanian Government are making efforts and contacts to get the best possible terms in line with the objective realities.

Daily Claims 'Arrest Campaign' Targeting PFLP

MM0106131595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 31 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Security Authorities Launch Arrest Campaign Against Popular Front"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Palestinian sources in Amman said yesterday that the Jordanian security authorities launched an arrest campaign in the evening of the day before yesterday and the following morning targeting several activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which is led George Habash, who lives in Jordan.

The sources said that the number of detainees "reached 10" by the evening on the day before yesterday. The sources did not give the direct reasons for these arrests. The Jordanian security authorities usually arrest activists of the PFLP and the Democratic Front [DFLP] when it learns of any activities by the two fronts crossing Jordan's red lines.

Jordanian official circles had accused the Palestinian opposition organizations based in Damascus of interference in Jordanian affairs and of using Jordanian territory as an arena for their operations in violation of a recent Jordanian Government "veto" on all political activity from Jordanian territory by members of the 10 factions.

It was later learned that 'Azmi al-Khawaja, secretary general of the Jordanian Popular Unity Party, left Amman for Damascus on a private visit. The aims of the visit were not disclosed. It should be recalled that al-Khawaja was previously a leading member of the PFLP.

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Government Urged To Open Dialogue With Opposition

JN0106124095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Jun 95 p 28

[Article by Bassam Haddadin: "The Government-Opposition Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dialogue between the government and the opposition's various spectra should not be absent. This is because the price for an absent dialogue will be collision, confusion, and the embarrassment of people, and most importantly, the lack of interaction among ideas and interpretations and the absence of both the logic of political settlements and the search for common denominators.

Had such a dialogue been provided, a collision would not have occurred and the government would not have gone back on its agreement to hold the conference for confronting normalization.

The condition necessary to initiate a dialogue is that the two parties should agree on dialogue, they should be convinced of the laws concerning the democratic game, and they should accept its results.

Since the Madrid conference, a state of tension and mistrust has dominated the relationship between the government and the opposition. A neutral observer can note, without difficulty, that the government is tightening the noose on the opposition by various ways and means. He can also note that many parties to the opposition have ruled out both the method of dialogue and the possibility of understanding after the government signed the Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

This situation has created much mistrust and inflamed the language with which the two parties address each other. Perhaps, this tension in the government-opposition relationship is understood and we do not expect it to end all at once because the repercussions and applications of the treaty still exist on the ground.

However, I believe that a continued public dialogue away from generalizations and speeches addressed to certain people is now more wanted than before. This requires that the government should show more flexibility as a sign of political detente in its relationship with all parties. The government should also involve these parties in discussing the country's policies and problems, as well as respect the right of expression which is guaranteed by the constitution by peaceful and democratic means.

On the other hand, some parties to the opposition are asked to abandon the "all or none" logic whether in politics, economics, or social affairs. This is not a call for allowing the opposition to join the government because I believe that the shadows and applications of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty are preventing the availability of the bases for such participation. It is rather a call for dialogue over the discrepancies and differences in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas and provide a better atmosphere for mutual understanding. This will curb the extremists in general.

Dialogue is the language and logic of this age as well as a democratic method for coexistence among ideas and interpretations. He who works for the opposite belongs to the totalitarian school and does not have the right to claim that he advocates democracy.

Further on Cancelled Opposition Conference

JN0106115395 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 29 May 95 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of the people, under a bright sun, and amid the empathy and support of millions of Jordanians, the Jordanian Popular Conference for Defending the Homeland and Resisting Normalization will be held in Amman today [29 May]. Eight hundred pioneering figures who occupy the highest positions in the areas of politics, culture, the economy, academia, and social, union, women and youth affairs will take part in the conference.

Along the path of faith in God and the people's will, which is derived from that of God, the conference will be inaugurated by a recitation from the holy Koran. Then, Bahjat Abu-Gharbiyah will give a speech on behalf of the preparatory committee to be followed by Ahmad 'Ubaydat; Engineer Layth Shubaylat, who will speak on behalf of the Professional Unions Council; and an Islamist deputy who will be speaking on behalf of the opposition deputies.

The conference will be held under the banners of confrontation and steadfastness, and amid a host of slogans condemning American terrorism, the lifting of the Israeli boycott, and Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah deals. The slogans also call for lifting the embargo from Iraq and not Israel. The conference's meetings will extend from early morning into the night amid unprecedented and unjustified tight security measures. Deputy Hamzah Mansur was appointed as the master of the ceremonies. Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, was named to chair the morning session and 'Ali Hamad al-Farhan, an independent, to chair the evening session. However, the presidency of the conference will remain collective and will include the secretaries general of opposition parties,

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head of the Confrontation Committee, and a number of independents.

AL-MAJD has learned that a 700-member standing organizational committee will be formed during the conference. Its name will be the "Higher National Committee of the Conference" and it will follow up the conference's work, implement its resolutions, and prepare for its convocation on an annual basis.

Although there has been a difference in viewpoints over the setup of this committee and the role of the Confrontation Committee in it, an agreement was soon reached to include members from the Confrontation Committee and the independents in the committee. This committee is due to convene following the conclusion of the conference to elect its leadership, draw up a plan of action, and immediately start carrying out its field tasks, including the formation of subcommittees.

AL-MAJD has learned that there has been a sharp and expanded debate on the draft of the conference's final statement. Many drafting sessions were held and there have been various suggestions and contributions regarding the statement's broad lines and details, particularly a paragraph on the right of the Palestinian people to armed struggle. Hence, some radical groups are expected to protest against the conference's final statement and political report.

AL-MAJD can pinpoint the major points of the draft final statement which include the following:

— Emphasizing that normalization is the other side of Israel's occupation of Arab lands in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine — it is a nickname of the Zionist policy of expansion and hegemony.

— It is unacceptable from anyone to claim that he is against normalization but that he supports the [Jordanian-Israeli peace] treaty, for normalization is a condition, and even the core, of the treaty.

— Warning against the consequences of lifting the Arab boycott of Israel and turning Jordan into a bridge that would help Israel to pass to the Arab east where oil resources and huge consumption markets exist.

— Warning against falling into the trap of the Middle East order, which is a regional stretch of the world order under an American leadership and Israeli protection and hegemony. This order will be an alternative to the Arab common market.

— Confronting all forms of normalization is the responsibility of all sectors and living forces of the entire people. It is also a national and pan-Arab task that should be placed on top of the agendas of all parties, social bodies, trade unions, and the entire people. Primary plans should be drawn out through an institutional, integrated, and incessant effort organized by competent committees.

— Calling for the launching of a unified and organized popular activity based on the principles stipulated in the final statement and the code of honor. There has to be a serious initiative in every area, village, establishment, union, society, club, and tribe to form committees for protection and confrontation.

— Emphasizing the need to defend national, pan-Arab, and Islamic education in schools and universities in order to protect the young generations from the dangers inherent in the treaties' culture — a culture that justifies capitulation, distorts our luminous history and heritage, and tries to obliterate our Arab and Islamic past.

— Defending the right to repatriation and self-determination of the Palestinian people in Jordan given that the Jordanian treaty with Israel and the Oslo-Cairo agreement overlooked them.

— Emphasizing that national unity, which we have safeguarded through the history of common struggle against Zionism and imperialism, is a sure guarantee to confront Zionism and the United States, which proved to be the enemy of our nation throughout all the stages of struggle with Zionism. The United States is the party that had imposed the Oslo and the Wadi al-'Arabah agreements which are unacceptable in part and parcel by the masses of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

— Calling on the House of Representatives to shoulder its historic and legal responsibility of confronting the government's attempts to pass new laws that would permit the enemy and foreigners to possess Jordanian lands. No party has the right to give any one, other than Jordanians, the right to possess lands of the homeland, for this will be an access for the usurping enemy to launch a settlement activity in the country as had happened in Palestine.

— Highlighting the link between the government's plans to expedite the implementation of the treaty and its drive to step up measures against public freedoms and democracy in the country. This escalation has taken various forms which all aim to stem the activity of political parties and opposition forces in trade and labor unions, popular bodies, and mosques. These measures include erratic arrests heedless of law and human rights.

— Condemning the government monopolization of the official and semi-official mass media and intellectual browbeating of all under the pretext of preserving security and stability.

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— Condemning the government's neglect of its tasks of improving the living conditions of people and finding solutions to address the various social phenomena resulting from economic recession, unemployment, and rampant crime.

— Attacking the government's thrust toward imposing further direct and indirect taxes which add to people's burdens after illusions and false promises of economic boom following the signing of the Wadi al-'Arabah treaty have been exposed. These false promises include the large-scale misleading propaganda of the so-called rescue economic conference in next fall.

— Praising the popular efforts to confront normalization in Arab countries, particularly in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, and Mauritania.

— Calling for unification and coordination of popular Arab efforts and establishment of cooperation and unity in struggle through a popular Arab conference for confrontation.

— Commending the struggle of the Palestinian people and their factions and martyrs and declaring support for this people and their intifadah against the brutal enemy.

— Condemning the self-rule [authority] measures which target the Palestinian people's just struggle and legitimate resistance.

— Considering any attempt to disarm the Palestinian people and prevent it from exercising their natural right to resistance as a measure in the interest of the enemy.

— Calling on the Jordanian people to support their Palestinian brethren in confronting any attempts aiming to undermine the firmly- established status of intifadah. [passage omitted]

Economic, Transport Issues Discussed With Israel

JN0106172095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The follow-up committee in charge of implementing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has discussed issues relating to the work of the technical committees, especially issues regarding economics and transportation. The committee reviewed what has been accomplished as a preparation to achieve accords in the framework of the peace treaty. It also arranged a timetable for the sessions of the technical committees due to be held in Jordan within the coming two weeks.

The Jordanian side was headed by Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, while Mr. Elyaqim Rubinstein presided over the Israeli side.

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President al-Asad's Son Visits Birri

NC0106173395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At about 1415 this afternoon, Staff Major Bashshar al-Asad, son of the Syrian president, visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. He was accompanied by Major General Ibrahim al-Safi, commander of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon, and Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the security and intelligence department.

After the meeting, Major al-Asad affirmed the role of the Chamber of Deputies and democracy in Lebanon. He denied that he conveyed a message from President al-Asad. Speaker Birri's circles described the visit by the Syrian president's son as fraternal and a confirmation of the personal and sincere relationship that unites Speaker Birri with President al-Asad and his family.

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Egyptian President, Delegation Arrive in Damascus

JN0106124895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Damascus this morning. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received the president at the airport. Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'r, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus also received the Egyptian president. After shaking hands with his receivers, including deputy prime ministers, ministers, and personnel from the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus, Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad headed for the VIP Lounge at the airport.

Following a short recess at the hall, the two presidents boarded an automobile and headed in an official motorcade to the People's Palace. Following their arrival, the two presidents held a meeting. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman; Minister of Transportation Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim; Minister of Industry Dr. Ahmad Nizam al-Din; and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal al- Janzuri, deputy prime minister and Minister of Planning; Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transportation, communication, and civil aviation; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Minister of Industry Engineer Ibrahim Fawzi; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the Egyptian President's Office; and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Mahmud Shukri.

The expanded meeting concluded at 1220. A closed meeting between the two presidents has started.

Egypt's Al-Sharif Outlines Visit

NC0106122595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 1 Jun (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus today is part of the constant consultations between the two Arab leaders, Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad, on all issues that concern the Arab nation and serve regional issues. In an exclusive statement to MENA, al-Sharif said that the visit comes at a very important time, as the region is witnessing new developments in the peace process, specifically on the Syrian track, and new developments and overtures on the Palestinian track in addition to numerous issues of common concern to the two fraternal countries.

Al-Sharif said that the bilateral summit provides a chance for consultations and exchanges of views between leaders Mubarak and al-Asad on numerous regional and international issues. He noted that a joint meeting is currently being held on the sidelines of the Syrian-Egyptian summit between members of the delegations, with the attendance of the two Syrian vice presidents. The meeting deals with bilateral cooperation in the fields of transportation, communications, information, industry, planning, and joint projects. He pointed out that this meeting will assess the bilateral projects and review the resolutions of the Higher Joint Committee. A number of chief editors of national and party newspapers are accompanying President Mubarak on this visit.

Mubarak Meets al-Asad on Peace Process

JN0106164495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt held a meeting at the People's Palace upon President Mubarak's arrival in Damascus this morning.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman; Minister of Transportation Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim; Minister of Industry Dr. Ahmad Nizam al-Din; and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal al- Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transportation, communication, and civil aviation; Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Minister of Industry Engineer Ibrahim Fawzi; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the Egyptian President's Office; and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Mahmud Shukri.

The expanded meeting concluded at 1220. This was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents.

The talks during both meetings addressed the regional state of affairs, the latest regional developments, and the ground covered thus far by the peace process.

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His excellency the president hosted a lunch banquet in honor of His Excellency President Husni Mubarak at the People's Palace. The banquet was attended by the delegation accompanying the Egyptian president, as well as members of the Syrian delegation who took part in the talks.

In parallel with the closed meeting held between the two presidents, the Syrian and Egyptian delegations held a meeting, during which they reviewed the enhanced bilateral ties of cooperation in various areas. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold News Conference

JN0106183595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1737 GMT 1 Jun 95

[News conference held by President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents in Damascus on 1 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Asad] I warmly welcome my brother, friend, and colleague, President Husni Mubarak, and I welcome you all in your country, Syria. The interval between this meeting and the previous one was longer than we had agreed upon. This is why it took us some more time, and we laughed a lot. As usual, we exchanged views on various issues which are of concern to us all. This exchange is always useful and helps us see things better. Some of you might say that the situation in the Arab nation is going backward, for us as a nation. However, we should not give up hope. Our nation is alive and can never die and can never perish. No international changes can obliterate this nation and its heritage and the meanings and values it symbolizes. I do not say this to take pride in what we all belong to, but this is the truth. At the same time, we must realize that preserving ourselves and our identity requires hard efforts on our part. Again, I welcome you and wait for your questions.

[Correspondent] Where has the peace process on the Syrian track reached? We have heard of progress in the current negotiations. Has the peace process reached the level that meets Syria's just demands, and what are the remaining obstacles? Do you expect an agreement to be reached before the end of this year?

[Al-Asad] As you know, for three and a half years, the talks have been going on without any progress, as I have said in my previous meeting with some brothers who are here now. Peace, as you know, is made up of several components or pieces, if I may say so. What is being talked about is only one piece, which is the security arrangements. These arrangements, as you know, are being discussed by the Syrian ambassador and the Israeli ambassador, under the auspices of the U.S. coordinator and sponsor. They have been talking about this for some time. Considerable time elapsed without achieving any progress at all. Finally, an understanding was reached on some concepts, so some people are now even talking about a conceptual understanding. This agreement on some points could be a helping factor, an indicator, or a point of reference, as some people have called it. It does not decide matters, but it helps to achieve progress, if there was... [pauses] because practical progress requires other efforts. What happened is a step on this road. This is what happened.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, within the framework of peace, security, and stability in the region, Egypt has called for turning the Middle East into a region free from mass destruction weapons. It is known that Israel refused to sign this treaty. How do you view the effect of Israel's refusal on regional peace and stability?

[Mubarak] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact, I first thank President Hafiz for our meeting today which comes after a long period of time because of many conditions. We, together, followed up the issue of nuclear proliferation. As you know, we have called many times for freeing the Middle East from all mass destruction weapons — nuclear, biological, and chemical. If the treaty wins the majority it will be binding on all the signatories to the treaty. The treaty won the majority, but this is not the final issue. We are still holding talks with the Israelis. We are not asking to remove all mass destruction weapons today, tomorrow, or next week, but we must talk about this issue. It will take a long time before we reach this principle. It will take long talks and a long time, but we have not stopped discussing the issue of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, the mere call for an Arab summit made Israel freeze its decision to confiscate new Palestinian land in east Jerusalem. Does this not call for a common Arab gathering, whose nucleus is Egypt and Syria, to preserve Arab interests?

[Mubarak] It is too early for an Arab gathering. An Arab gathering, in the wake of the differences which erupted after the Gulf war, needs a long time. We need a long time to end the discord and calm spirits after this terrible matter. I doubt that a full Arab summit would convene to achieve reconciliation. An Arab summit needs great preparation. We were close to resolving the remaining Arab differences before the Gulf war. However, the Gulf war and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait made a very big crack in the Arab nation and weakened the Arab word in front of the world. The issue needs time.

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[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the United States constantly reiterates that it is a main partner in the peace negotiations. However, what happened when the Security Council discussed Israel's confiscation of Jerusalem land? The United States used the veto. Does your excellency think that this could affect the United States' role and position considering that it is a neutral party in the peace negotiations? Moreover, what are the Arab countries required to do for the United States to show bias toward Arab rights like what is happening now in terms of its stand toward Israel?

[Al-Asad] I believe that any Arab who follows public affairs knows that the United States is closer to Israel and, hence, is at a distance from the Arabs. Of course, no Arab can consider the United States' use of the veto a friendly sign. Indeed, every Arab considers it to be just the opposite.

The current Arab stand and situation are the cause of what we see and hear, and even of more than this. Of course, as all of you — I and my brother President Mubarak — hope, no matter how long it takes, there will be some form of grouping, solidarity, unity, and union. I mean some sort of formula that embodies this long history, these broad interests, and this geography which link us together and this destiny which, in many people's views, is threatened. Therefore, I began talking to you by referring to the nation's solidarity. However, the nation's solidarity does not mean that this destiny is not threatened. Therefore, I also said something to the effect that the threat cannot end by itself without our efforts and suffering.

This happened and it was more than expected, although for years there has been talk of peace and a new climate in the region whether by those in the United States or in Western countries in general, and many other parts of the world. The way is to rectify points of Arab weakness. If we manage to correct them, then this is the most important thing we can achieve. This is the (?way).

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak: You have discussed bilateral relations between Syria and Egypt. What decisions have you made? Can it be said that this summit will give a new boost to the relations of cooperation and coordination between the sisterly countries?

[Mubarak] Bilateral relations between us and Syria are very old and historic. Meetings always give them a boost. As you can see, I am accompanied by statesmen: a deputy prime minister, the minister of industry, and many others. In their discussions, they do not need a green light from me or from the president to boost bilateral relations. It is a continuous process.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President al-Asad, in Israel they talk about two lines. They talk about withdrawal to the international border in the Golan. You talk about withdrawal to the 4 June border. They also talk about the need to upgrade the level of negotiations, especially since security arrangements have been reached. What is the Syrian position on those two issues?

[Al-Asad] First, regarding the withdrawal issue, we have not reached an agreement so far. Of course, Syria's position is known and clear. Syria strongly adheres to and cannot give up the demand for the 4 June 1967 border. All those who deal with the peace issue have developed this conviction — that Syria can never accept anything short of this. This issue is settled, at least as far as we are concerned. As for the other issue, I am not sure what you mean. If you please repeat the second part.

[Correspondent] They talk about the need to upgrade the level of negotiations and that meetings be held between senior officials?

[Al-Asad] I believe that the negotiations are taking place at a high level. That is why I asked you to repeat the question. Who is negotiating? There is a U.S. mediator who comes to us and meets with me. He then goes to the other party and meets with the head of the other side. Neither we nor they have a level higher than this. The level is high [al-Asad laughs]. Of course, I know that they would say that this does not consititute negotiations, but trips that take place from time to time and at rather wide intervals. But this is what is appropriate in light of the current situation. As far as I know, this issue is not raised now as it used to be in the past. At any rate, peace is peace, whether it is realized through an ambassador or a head of state — or through a foreign minister, etc.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, Arab hopes were revived after the Alexandria summit and its results reverberated throughout the Arab nation. Are you thinking of reviving this summit to end the difficult Arab situation?

[Mubarak] You mean another Alexandria summit? But the three of us, President Hafiz, King Fahd, and I, met in Alexandria. We held talks and issued a joint statement about the results of the talks. I want to say that we all hope to see a larger grouping of the Arab nation. However, what happened was difficult. Imagine someone expelling you from your house and taking your furniture and throwing your stuff out. Can you come the

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next day and say hello to him. It takes some time. This is the problem we have now. The split that happened as a result of the Gulf crisis needs time so that people can calm down and accept a meeting in a good atmosphere that is conducive to reunion. We certainly hope this will happen.

[Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad, is there a possibility of cooperation and coordination on the three tracks, the Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks, or is this difficult?

[Al-Asad] I think you know the answer [laughter]. We earlier pledged that we will not advance a single step until others advance as well. I do not want to name those people. The others understood this and they were told about this. The Americans were also told about this. President Husni Mubarak and I discussed this a short while ago. But what can we do, since the others have left us and gone forward. They say they have made it ahead of us. We do not want anybody to go backward.

[Correspondent] May be they want to go back, without you making them do that?

[Al-Asad] None of them wants to go back. And I don't think they say other than this. If you tell me something else, then I will give you another answer [laughter].

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Mubarak: Allow me one last question about the peace process. Have you sensed a development in Israel's position to become serious toward the peace process, especially sine the land expropriation decision in Jerusalem has not been canceled but has been suspended?

[Mubarak] I am not in Israel to tell you whether there is development or not. However, I can tell you that suspending the decision — and I have said that we hope it will be canceled — could help advance the peace process. The seizure of territory and not giving it to its owners or changing its features will have a very negative effect on the peace process.

[Al-Asad] To add to the previous question, we are with our brothers, whether they go ahead of us or move along with us. The Arab brothers shall always have a bond.

Mubarak Departs, Meets Chief Editors

NC0106192595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1722 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has clarified that his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus today were part of the continuous consultations between them. He said relations between the two countries have always been good and that the two countries are working to encourage bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

The President made these remarks aboard the plane to the chief editors of Egyptian state-run and party newspapers who accompanied him during his brief visit to Syria.

Emphasizing that he is not against the press, President Mubarak said: I do not get angry with the press, but I want it to be a grand press free of vituperation, abuse, slander, or violation of facts.

He also emphasized that he is not against criticism and opinions or political cartoons based on actual incidents. He added that the right to criticism does exist and is respected and that public figures can be the target of such criticism which should be supported by evidence or references.

President Mubarak told the chief editors that he was pained by slander and defamation and that the amendment to the Penal Law was designed to protect the press and journalists. He said citizens are equal before the law and no one has an advantage over another. He added: We did not issue the law with prejudice against anyone, but considered values and principles. The press must also consider values, principles, and safeguards and not defame anyone.

He noted that the law will be applied to state-run newspapers as much as it is applied to party newspapers. He said the right to criticism is still guaranteed, even under the new amendments, but it must be based on evidence or proof, adding: We encourage objective criticism free of defamation. He went on: I cannot tolerate a mistake made by anyone on this. The law targets false reporting, not criticism at all.

President Mubarak favored the idea that a committee for dialogue from the Higher Council of the Press, the Ministry of Information, the Press Association, and chief editors of state-run and party newspapers should meet to discuss ways to facilitate the journalists' task to reach genuine news sources to avert mistakes and to facilitate the flow of information to them. He also called for monthly meetings between the responsible ministers and journalists to exchange information and to inquire about and answer questions on anything they might think of.

President Mubarak affirmed that he refused to issue the amendments in the form of a decree having the force of law and that he had rejected these amendments for more than eight years. He said he was compelled to issue the law at the last session of the People's Assembly after immense pressure and insistence from the people who

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had doubts about inaccurate news, unjust accusations, and defamation.

The president said that even after the punishment has been more stringent, it is still light compared with many laws in the world. He added that, in addition to fines ranging from 10,000 to 100,000 marks, the German law, for example, stipulates prison in cases of false reporting ranging from five to 10 years. In such cases, he went on, there is the right to unlimited compensation in Britain and that in the United States, the matter is up to the judge's discretion without any limits.

President Mubarak affirmed that journalists have the right to arrive at facts unless they are secret. He said disturbing public order and slander had been specified in the law before it was amended. He said one of the reasons that prompted him to issue these amendments is that a journalist came to him complaining about reports published about his family. These reports slandered the journalist's daughter who was divorced by her husband, causing her psychological problems.

On another topic, President Mubarak affirmed that the government will stay and will not be reshuffled. He said: My judgment of matters depends on how much they contribute to production and the public interest. We are passing through a very grave stage in which we must calculate each step. We have the problem of increasing production rates. This is the criterion by which we judge the government. This requires stability.

Asked about reports that the United States and Israel are disappointed by the Arab League's stance on the boycott issue, President Mubarak affirmed that the Arab League is the house of the Arabs. He said: We do not allow attacks on the Arab League. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is the secretary general of the Arab League and not the foreign minister of Egypt. In any case, a ruler cannot make a decision against his people's will. An Arab head of state cannot abolish the boycott of Israel before a comprehensive and just peace is achieved.

Asked about the privatization program in Egypt, President Mubarak said we are embarking on this program according to our interest. I am not afraid of someone who makes an offer to buy [a public sector company] provided he has no political ambition.

President Mubarak affirmed that he refuses to devalue the Egyptian pound because this will cause high prices, inflation, and further suffering for the citizens.

Proposed Israeli Referendum on Golan Called 'Trick'

AU0106190595 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1730 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Statement by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in Vienna on 1 June — recorded; al-Zu'bi speaks in Arabic with superimposed German translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Speaking about Israel's plans to hold a referendum on the proposed withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who has just completed a visit to Vienna, told ORF Television the following:

[Al-Zu'bi] How can Israel ask its people about something that simply does not belong to it? All we are asking for is an official, binding assurance that Israel will withdraw its army from the Golan Heights within a few months and that it will do so fully. The referendum is just a trick to avoid having to fulfill a promise that has been made publicly.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Antidrug State Commission

LD0106213395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani to the second general session of the Antidrug High State commission at Golkhana Palace in Kabul on 31 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; Esteemed brethren, sisters, and respected guests: May the peace and blessing of God be upon you. [Words indistinct] Afghanistan regards the struggle against cultivation, illegal production, use, and trafficking of narcotic substances as one of the valuable principles and instructions of the sacred religion of Islam. For this reason, in the early years of the restoration of Islamic sovereignty in the country, Afghanistan has created and set up the high state commission with a new composition and with (?specific) objectives, in order to unify and coordinate the campaign against narcotic substances.

Despite in the political, military, and economic difficulties and problems [words indistinct], Afghanistan managed to carry out a series of activities at national, regional, and international levels, in order to combat against the increasing use of the hateful phenomenon of narcotic substances [words indistinct].

On the basis of the Afghanistan's campaign against narcotic substances and in order to eliminate the factors leading to the cultivation, production, and traffic of these substances, since its creation two years ago the High State Commission has confiscated the amount of 18,750 kg of narcotic substances in the capital and provinces. Over 3,390 jerib [one jerib= 44x44 million] of poppy growing land has been destroyed in the provinces. [passage omitted]

The invasion of the aggressive forces of the former Soviet Union, the years of the imposed war, and the efforts made to create insecurity have prepared the way for those elements and self- interested groups, who prefer their private interest over the interest of the Islamic nation of Afghanistan, (?to succeed) in growing, producing, and trafficking narcotic substances. However, on the basis of its realistic policy of putting the physical, psychological, and medical health of the people above all others and regarding them as one of its important duties and a priority, Afghanistan has taken effective and important steps on the path of struggle against growing, producing, and trafficking these substances.

Because the damages caused by using narcotic substances are regarded as a very serious and dangerous threat at the international level, Afghanistan believes that all countries, in order to safeguard the health of the people and in particular the young generation, should organize and coordinate their struggle at international and regional level with the participation and efforts of various countries and international organizations [words indistinct]. Afghanistan expresses readiness to cooperate with similar organizations in the neighboring countries and with regional and international organizations, and to regulate and make effective its efforts.

In paying attention to the importance of the issue, we ask similar organizations in the region and in the world to begin, expand, and accelerate cooperation with each other, in order to achieve the common goals of these organizations and in order to salvage the countries' young generation from the evil of the narcotic substances. Afghanistan expresses its complete readiness to help realize this objective.

Occasionally we see that in some countries the common objectives are ignored to a certain extent in some instances, and some of the circles give exaggerated reports, give Afghanistan as an example, and link Afghanistan to the growth, expansion, trafficking, and illegal production of narcotic substances. Of course, the unsatisfactory socio-political situation that prevailed in our country was due to the interference of foreign forces and their efforts to create insecurity in our country, and this prepared the way for the growth, production, and trafficking of narcotic substances.

With Islamic sovereignty bringing the situation under its control step by step, it has started to secure law and order on the basis of its religious beliefs and in accordance with the praise-worthy Afghan traditions, and the struggle against narcotics has been broadened and accelerated in various dimensions. These efforts of ours are not a stage show or propaganda. It is a principle part of the Afghanistan's realistic and scientifically regulated policy.

In this connection we propose to the United Nations that it advise and instruct the International Narcotics Board of Control to act jointly with the Afghan Antidrug High State Commission in the area of practical actions, including a campaign against narcotics in Afghanistan and a plan of expenses.

The lack of attention to the allocation of aid—financial and technical assistance—to Afghanistan has hampered and slowed down the campaign against narcotics. [Passage indistinct]

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Released Pakistanis Deny Involvement in Fighting

LD0106162695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The released Pakistani captives have described as baseless the Kabul administration's claim that they were arrested during fighting.

Last night Kabul Radio reported that the Kabul authorities have released 20 Pakistani subjects who were arrested while fighting with the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party].

One of the released captives said that none of them had taken part in the fighting, but had come to Kabul on private business and that they were arrested by State Information Services personnel.

A responsible source of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan also described the above claim by the Kabul administration as baseless, and said that these people were been arrested on the battlefield but in Kabul city. These people had come to Kabul on private business.

Commentary Asks Islamic Countries for Assistance

LD3105220695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In consolidating further relations with friendly countries, the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] is taking everyday practical and advantageous steps in the area of foreign policy. The BAKHTAR political commentator writes:

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, friendly countries have been asking for friendship and further consolidation of relations with the ISA. Saudi Arabia was the first country to recognize our Islamic state soon after the announcement of a provisional government in Afghanistan and pledged every humanitarian assistance to the Islamic state. [passage omitted]

Since the restoration of peace in our country, the ground has been prepared for friendly countries, especially Islamic countries, to renew their vow of support once again for the Islamic sovereignty of Afghanistan and to take practical steps to end the fighting and military-political disputes. The visit to Afghanistan of the special envoy of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the high-ranking Saudi delegation, led by the head of Saudi security, once again (?displays) the goodwill and peace-seeking intention of the friendly country — Saudi Arabia — vis-a-vis the people of Afghanistan and the ISA. This will, undoubtedly, have effective influence on the path of our country's reconstruction. [passage omitted]

The people of Afghanistan [words indistinct] ask friendly countries, especially Islamic countries, to play an effective role in the task of our country's reconstruction. Obviously, humanitarian assistance by Islamic countries and their disinterested efforts in this regard could be a good example for other countries who seek to assist our misery-stricken people and our country.

Bank Accuses Uzbekistan of Forged Banknotes

LD3005152095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 30 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As it has recently been noticed, in some provinces in the north of Afghanistan counterfeit 1,000 afghani banknotes have been distributed. According to a report by very authentic sources, the state of Uzbekistan, which [word indistinct] has imported a banknote printing factory from an English company by the name of [name indistinct], puts the banknotes at the disposal of the opponents of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Strongly condemning this blatant violation of accepted international laws and principles by the state of Uzbekistan, the Central Bank of Afghanistan asks [words indistinct] in the northern provinces of the country, especially in the provinces of Balkh, Jowzjan, Fariab, and Samangan, to prevent [word indistinct] of such banknotes and do not waste their capital. [passage omitted]

India

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Kashmir

Police Kill 2 Pakistani Nationals

BK3105122395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two Pakistani nationals were killed in an encounter with the police in Ranbirsinghpura area yesterday. The Pakistani nationals have been deputed by the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] to plant explosive devices in the area and cause destruction. A police constable was seriously injured while defusing one of the bombs planted by them in village (Manaichak).

Government is keeping a watch over the activities of some leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, and appropriate action will be taken against them. This was stated by minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, in the Lok Sabha today. He informed members that these leaders visited New Delhi

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in March and it is learnt that they have primarily come to the capital to attend the Pakistan Day celebrations. The minister said some of these leaders also met various foreign diplomats, political leaders, and other intellectuals during their stay.

Minister Comments on Elections

BK0206011495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Rajya Sabha has approved extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months from 18 July. A resolution on this was unanimously adopted by the house, with government assuring the members that installation of a democratically elected government is on top of the agenda.

Replying to a brief debate, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, asserted that there is no pressure from any foreign country to hold elections in the state. He said the prime minister will come out with a package for Jammu and Kashmir soon. He said a meeting of political parties will be convened to discuss the issue. Assuring free and fair elections, the home minister said the government will not project anyone as leader and it is for the people of the state to elect their own representative. On the question of autonomy, he said it should be looked into in a broad perspective. Mr. Chavan said there is nothing wrong in talking to various groups, as it will help the government to know their mind. Outlining the various developmental projects in the state, Mr. Chavan said 950 crore rupees has been sanctioned last year for expediting certain schemes.

Earlier, moving the resolution, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, declared that the government will not be deterred in its determination to foil the aggressive designs and violent activities by Pakistan and its mercenaries.

Parties Welcome Presidential Rule

BK0206035995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, several political parties have welcomed the decision of the central government to extend president's rule in the state. The parties include the Janata Dal, the CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Panthers Party, Awami Tehrik, and Kashmir Mukti Morcha. In separate statements, they have said that though elections are the only solution to the turmoil in the state, the conditions are not conducive for polls at present. They have demanded that pressure on the militants be increased and development work should be taken up on a priority basis.

Columnist Describes Kashmir 'War'

BK3105145795 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 30 May 95 p 8

[Article by Rahul Bedi: "Weary of a war that seems endless"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar: The 22-year-old Kashmiri militant laid down his assault rifle, slid a 9 mm pistol and grenade from under his poncho and settled down to describe how his platoon attacked a paramilitary patrol.

"Captain" Amjad Khan, section commander in the Hizbul Mujahideen, Kashmir's largest and best armed militant group, spoke in the company of six militant in a small house in the Kashmiri capital unmindful of the fortified bunker of the Indian Border Security Force [BSF] a hundred metres away. Having divested themselves of their weapons, which included two sophisticated sniper rifles and a rocket propelled grenade launcher, they sat around sipping tea, intently listening to their commander. One of them was 17 years old.

"We fired on the three BSF jeeps with our grenade launcher and they fled," said Khan, who joined the Hizbul Mujahideen soon after Kashmiri separatists launched an armed struggle for independence five years ago. Over 12,000 people have been killed in the insurgency so far. "We chased them through the narrow alleys on foot, firing at the retreating jeeps, injuring at least three soldiers," he said.

An hour later when the soldiers returned with reinforcements to conduct a house-to-house search, the militants had spirited away their arms and dispersed, unrecognisable, into one of the many houses in the crowded middle class neighbourhood. The identity parade also proved futile as none of the people in the area were forthcoming about the militants. By midnight, all 12 militants, part of the attack party, were back in their homes, celebrating yet another blow they had struck for Kashmir's freedom in India's only Muslim majority state.

"The people are with us in our fight for freedom," said Mumtaz, the section's military strategist and religious adviser. The 26- year old strategist, like his companions, said he was given training in weapons and explosives handling in neighbouring Pakistan which holds a third of Kashmir and lays claim to the rest. Pakistan, however, denies claims it is training militants. "We will carry on our jihad or holy war to the last Kashimiri for freedom," he said. But the security forces and locals feel otherwise. While army and paramilitary officials

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say militancy is on the decline, most Kashmiris admit they are weary of the armed separatist struggle which has brought nothing but death, misery and impoverishment since it began in 1990. Though many still talk of independence, Kashmiri leaders privately admit the proposed state has never been demographed or adequately quantified. The talk is of uniting the Kashmir ruled by a Hindu king before "irregulars" from Pakistan's northwest frontier raided the principality in 1947 after both countries became independent. "If the concept of freedom was widespread, the Indian security forces would have faced a mass civil disobedience movement impossible to contain," said one political leader. The security forces, on the other hand, claim militancy has been brought down to Unacceptable levels of violence" and that the situation is conducive to the federal government fulfiling its commitment to hold state elections. "Provided there are candidates, people will vote as they are fed up with militancy," said a senior army officer in Srinagar. Elections in Kashmir were last held in 1987 amid allegations of widespread rigging and substantially fuelled the subsequent separatist movement leading to the state government's dismissal in 1990 and imposition of federal rule. The current spell of federal rule — extended every six months — ends in mid-July after which another extension would require a constitutional amendment.

Security officials claim the militants are short of arms, ammunition and recruits and are not as motivated as they were when hostilities began. Militants have lost the unstinting public support and sympathy they enjoyed earlier because they often indulge in extortion, rape and racketeering. This has led to an increased flow of intelligence from locals. Officials claim this flood of information has overwhelmed the army and paramilitary, who are finding it difficult to process because of inadequate manpower.

Security officials say the militants concede their goal is unattainable, but are looking for a face-saving formula to honourably call off their struggle. Over 3,400 militants have been killed, 16,000 arrested and hundreds of tonnes of arms and explosives recovered since 1990. There are some 150,000 army and paramilitary troops deployed on internal security duty across Kashmir.

Intelligence officials say Kashmir's militant movement is being sustained by foreign mercenaries, mainly Afghans, a majority veterans of the war against Soviet troops in Afghanistan and Pakistanis from Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Intelligence estimates of the number of Afghans in Kashmir's six main militant outfits vary from 600 to 800 while another 1,000 are believed to be waiting for snow in the high mountain passes to melt before crossing over into Kashmir.

Editorial Attacks 'Feeble' Policy

BK0206035495 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 31 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Feeble Kashmir Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision of the Central Cabinet to extend president's rule in Jammu-Kashmir gives much wanted relief. It simply means that the government has relented on its stubborn desire to hold elections in the state before 17th July. It would have been much better had the government not shown a stubborn attitude toward holding the elections in Kashmir in the first place, because almost the entire opposition believed that without controlling the menace of terrorism afflicting the state, any commitment on holding elections there was not right and proper. The terrorists, who initially appeared to be ready to participate in the election process, suddenly backtracked on their stand. The hired killers, the agents of the Pakistan's intelligence agencies, and the quislings can now readily claim that the Indian Government, pulverized by their disruptive activities, backtracked from its earlier decision. The government now gives the reason for extending the president's rule in Kashmir by saying that the existing conditions are not conducive to holding free and fair elections. However, the same situation has existed all along and every one knows that the terrorists' activities have ruined the conditions there. Thus, by insisting on holding elections and suddenly eating its words, the government has supplied further evidence that its Kashmir policy is very feeble and arbitrary. When will our government realize that its vacillating and self-contradictory policy towards such a sensitive state as Kashmir is likely to prove damaging and even suicidal! It would have been better had our government assessed the situation in Kashmir before beating its drums about holding the elections. Yet, it announced its decision without seeing whether the atmosphere was conducive to holding elections in Kashmir and so suffered a loss of face.

Was it not strange that when the whole nation was unanimous that the situation in Kashmir was not at all conducive to holding elections there, the leadership of the country was impudently bent upon holding them? Now the government is indicating that its decision about extending the president's rule there and not holding elections before 17th July was taken after receiving Mr. Sheshan's advice following his visit to the state, especially after the Charar Sharif tragedy. However, can it deny that even after the Charar Sharif tragedy, it was still bent upon holding the elections in Jammu and Kashmir? As far as its forsaking the idea of holding the elections in Kashmir before 17th July following Mr Sheshan's advice is concerned, would it not have

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been proper for the election commissioner to have been requested to visit the state personally much earlier? Then the government would have avoided making any declaration regarding the Kashmir election before getting Mr. Sheshan's report. Has the Government not unnecessarily vexed the entire nation by declaring its commitment to holding elections in Kashmir without making a prior assessment of the situation there? Many similar questions can be raised and all of them point to the sad fact that the government's Kashmir policy is still afflicted with a variety of weaknesses. It is high time the government developed a solid policy regarding Kashmiri affairs and realized the bitter truth that elections in Kashmir cannot be held without first eradicating the menace of terrorism afflicting the state.

Minister Comments on Nuclear Fuel Development

BK0106162395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is one of the few countries to have achieved comprehensive capability in the entire nuclear fuel technology. The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, said this in the Rajya Sabha today during question hour.

He said starting from prospecting and mining of nuclear materials, fuel, and clad fabrication, our engineers and scientists have achieved success in the design, construction, and operation of nuclear reactors. The minister said India has also developed self-reliance in heavy water technology, reactor control system, and in reactor repair and maintenance technology.

Burma Assists Army Operations in Northeast

BK0206011095 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 27 May 95 p 1

[Report by Pradyot Lal and Swaraj Thapa]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, 26 May: "Operation Goldenbird," launched by the Indian Army to tackle the underground movement in the hills of Nagaland and Mizoram, has found a new ally: the Burmese Army.

The operation, which was launched on April 3, was in response to the feedback received from intelligence agencies about a secret conclave of top Northeast insurgent outfits like the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam], People's Liberation Army [PLA], NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland], and others.

In the second week of March, Burmese authorities received a categorical message from their Indian counterparts that any covert or overt help extended to the insurgents could lead to scrapping the new trade links broached between the two countries. The trade-route between Myanmar [Burma] and India was subsequently thrown open, as the Burmese government assured cooperation with the Indian authorities.

As far as "Operation Goldenbird" is concerned, updated reports trickling into North Block [Home Ministry] from intelligence field operatives stationed in the region confirm that as many as 31 NSCN and PLA activists were shot down by Burmese forces in six clashes in the month of April and May.

"Although officially there has never been any joint operation, passing of information informally takes place regularly between Indian troops and the Burmese Army stationed along the border," said a senior home ministry official, adding that most of the skirmishes which took place between the Burmese Army and the insurgents were a result of their information feedback.

Indian authorities are positively thrilled at the Myanmar response. "If there was one way we could stop insurgency, narco- terrorism, and entry of AIDS-carriers into the country as a result of drug abuse, it could only have been with support from across the border, and we hope that this trend would continue," a senior official averred.

While intelligence reports available here speak about the success of Indian troops in the region, there have been casualties in Army ranks also. The official version says Indian security forces had killed eight and apprehended 40 insurgents between April 3 when the operation was launched, and May 24. The Indian troops had also seized a large cache of sophisticated weapons and ammunition including AK-47 and AK-56 rifles, pistols, a rocket launcher and M- 16 and G-3 rifles.

Home Ministry officials said the operation was launched following intelligence reports about increased movement of the NSCN, ULFA, UNLF [United Naga Liberation Front], and the PLA last month along the Indo-Burmese border. In fact specific information had been sent in by intelligence operatives about plans of various outfits to hold joint meetings in the jungles of Myanmar.

The encounters with the Burmese Army are reported to have taken place in the Chin Hills at Ngaiphaipi and Zawngte regions along the Burma-Mizoram border between April 3 to April 17. During this period, the Burmese Army were engaged in four clashes with the NSCN in which they killed 23 and injured 29. Two Burmese soldiers were also killed in the clashes.

In another encounter on May 1, Burmese Army personnel were engaged in a long gunbattle with a group of about 150 underground activists.

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Three ultras were shot in the encounter and one Burmese was injured. On May 3, five more were shot dead in another encounter by Burmese troops.

Indian forces started by apprehending three CNF(R) [expansion unknown] cadres who were held by the BSF [Border Security Force]. In another encounter on April 28, six militants were shot dead by Indian Army.

In the first week of May, Army men of the 15 Kumaon regiment were able to apprehend 32 ultras.

British Official Addresses Investment Potential

BK0106131995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British chancellor of the exchequer says that an all-round economic development of India requires a huge capital investment and massive infrastructural development. Addressing the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, said a move toward large-scale privatization can strengthen the economy. He said British investors were examining West Bengal's potential for investment of funds in businesses. Later, he met Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, chairman of West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, and discussed the industrialization of the state. Mr. Clarke also met the chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu.

***Overhaul of Mirage 2000 Aircraft Begins**

95AS0386A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 7 Apr 95 p 5

[Article by Srinivas Laxman: "India Overhauling Mirage Aircraft"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay, April 6: India began overhauling Indian Air Force's (IAF) fleet of Mirage 2000 aircraft at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) complex, Bangalore, from April 1.

The first Mirage 2000 arrived at the HAL complex on March 28. Initially two aircraft would be overhauled. Overhauling a Mirage in India would result in an annual saving of Rs 20 crores. The IAF fleet, based at Gwalior, comprises 49 Mirage 2000s. The first batch was inducted in 1985.

Interestingly, the overhauling work is being undertaken at a time when France has expressed its readiness to offer a new version of the fighter, Mirage 2000-5. Each of these aircraft costs Rs 145 crores. Earlier IAF used to send the Mirage fighters to the aircraft's manufacturer, Dassault, in France.

The new project, which hitherto was shrouded in secrecy, envisages extending the aircraft's life span by three years.

The commencement of the project was confirmed today by HAL's deputy general manager Wing Commander A.E. Patrawalla. He was discussing with this correspondent the problem of bogus spares being faced by the aviation industry.

A special section has been created at HAL for overhauling the fighters. The ground equipment was fabricated locally with hardly any foreign component.

Iran

Antirevolutionary Relative of Khamene'i Surrenders

LD0106181595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the a Central News Unit correspondent today, Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Hoseyn Fallahian talked about members and sympathizers of antirevolutionary organizations returning to the country.

He said that a group of such people have made repeated requests to return. After comprehensive investigation, the Islamic Republic of Iran prepared the groundwork for their return.

He said these people are members and sympathizers of the antirevolutionary grouplets who, because of defeat and hopelessness and after realizing the legitimacy of the sacred order of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have asked to return to the country.

The minister of information confirmed the return of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani [brother-in-law of Ayatollah Khamene'i] and said that after repeated requests to return to Iran, Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani surrendered himself to Law Enforcement Forces at a border post. Mr. Fallahian said that because of old age Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani is in poor physical condition and that he is mentally and psychologically unbalanced.

He said Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani has repented of his past activities and thinks that he deserves the maximum punishment.

The minister of information added that investigation of the case has not yet revealed if he can be held responsible for his behavior, and we are therefore waiting for improvement in his physical condition.

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UN Told of Cease-Fire Violations by Iraq

LD3105121995 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, May 31, IRNA — In a letter to Secretary General of the United Nations, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iran has reported 14 cases of ceasefire violations by Iraq from January 16 to February 11, 1995.

Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, sending a letter to Ghali called for the letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

According to the letter which was circulated as a Security Council document Tuesday [30 May], the cease-fire violation cases are as follow: deploying single-barrelled anti-aircraft gun, shelling a mortar shell [as received], trafficking in no-man's land, firing flares and installing satellite antenna in one of Iraq's sentry posts at Naft Shahr.

The letter informed Ghali that on 31 January, 20 antirevolutionary elements entered Shiwakhan village in Alavan, and forcibly gathered the villagers to hear a speech against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They extorted money from the villagers and tribesmen and fled into the territory of Iraq, the letter said.

In his letter Kharrazi also refered to infiltration of antirevolutionary agents on 9 February and said after penetration into Iran's territory, the antirevolutionary elements began extorting money from villagers.

Two Iraqi tug-boats were observed tugging a ship near Khosrowabad in no man's land on January, 9 the letter said.

The letter also reported the partrol of 32 Iraqi motor boats with a total of 95 personnel across oqe wrvand rud [placename as received] which took place on February 9, and another similar case, the patrol of 43 motor boats with a total of 60 personnel on 11 February.

It also said an Iraqi motor boat approached Khorramshahr on January 27 and when confronted with the Iranian coastal police reaction, retreated into Iraqi waters.

Flying of four Iraqi planes and helicopter at low altitude over Abadan on February 10 and 11 were also among other cases of cease- fire violations by Iraqi forces, Kharrazi pointed out in his letter to Ghali.

Official on Iraqi Ties, U.S. Sanctions

LD0106225695 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1847 GMT 1 Jun 95

[From the weekly "Political Round Table" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [unidentified announcer] In tonight's program we have Dr. 'Ali Khorram, senior adviser to the foreign minister, and Mr. Sadeqi, director general for Persian Gulf affairs at the Foreign Ministry. We are to question the gentlemen and hear their answers, God willing. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Having in mind the Foreign Ministry's good activities in this field, how do you see the future of Iran's relations with the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf?

[Khorram] My personal understanding is that these relations will definitely improve because most of the objections have now been clarified. Regional states saw that during the last 15 years, 17 years since the establishment of the Islamic republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not invade any country, did not attempt to topple any other country. They also saw that many issues raised by the West and their media to create discord among us became clear one by one. Of course we hope that the Persian Gulf states also try themselves to overcome such misunderstandings. We should respect each other and recognize each other's interests and work toward a framework to secure a comprehensive friendship and good neighborly relations. In that case, we definitely see a positive future for relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states.

[Announcer] Mr. Khorram, your trip to Iraq was naturally accompanied by some success, the good news of which we heard on the radio, television, and in the press, particularly about the prisoners, the remaining Iranian prisoners that will be released soon. With regards to the trip's achievements, how do you see the future of Iran-Iraq relations?

[Khorram] Iran and Iraq are two important countries with good potentials in the region. Iran cannot forget Iraq and Iraq cannot forget Iran. Whatever government that might be in power in Iraq, the country will be considered important to us. Therefore, God willing, if we try and see the political will in Iraqi leaders and officials and if we could close the chapter on the eight-year, or more correctly the 10-year military-political-economic — war between the two countries, we could then say a new chapter will open between us to establish Persian Gulf cooperation and coordination and so there would be friendship and good neighborly relations instead of tension. Since we in the Islamic

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Republic of Iran believe in good neighborly relations with all neighbors, including Iraq, we wish to establish good neighborly relations with that country very soon. From this point of view, if we close the chapter on war we could then open new chapters and a new life with Iraq as with other regional countries.

[Announcer] Mr. Khorram, as you mentioned yourself, you recently paid a visit to Iraq at the head of a delegation. Some political circles analyzed that as a move — and in general the present renewed move — for normalizing relations between Iraq and Iran is a response toward neutralizing the U.S. move in using sanctions against Iran. What do say in that regard? Also please say what regional and global obstacles will be in the way of any measures we might take for normalizing relations with Iraq and how they will be approached?

[Khorram] The truth is that the trend of normalization of relations between Iran and Iraq — as I explained before — began from 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988]. From Ordibehesht 1369 [second month of year beginning 21 March 1990], it began with letters written by the presidents of the two countries and direct talks by the two countries. That has no connection with issues that happen at certain junctures, such as the U.S. sanctions or the like. That is because it is the natural right of Iran and Iraq to endeavor to resolve at an early stage their existing mutual problems, which are related to the past decade, and be able to address the current affairs: those issues that occur daily for both countries in the region. We must think more in those directions. That is why the visit — as you know — was planned last year [year beginning 21 March 1994]. But because we did not agree to the date for some time and then because of an incident around the same time a year ago when a bomb was exploded by the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization members] at the shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza in Mashhad in Khorasan Province during the Ashura [anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Husayn]. Since the monafeqin have bases in Iraq and are being supported by Iraq, we stopped the visit. After that we tried to agree on other dates but did not succeed. Eventually the end of Ordibehesht [21 May] was agreed. But that coincided with the time when Mr. Clinton raised the sanctions issue. Thus the visit has no connection with the U.S. sanctions. There will certainly be other visits between Iran and Iraq when there might be other concurrent developments. That is why one should not make the mistake of thinking that the visit was undertaken at this juncture because of the sanctions.

As for the second part of your question. Your question in reality was about what regional or global problems exist in normalizing relation. We have no regional difficulties, except that there may be some misunderstandings among the Persian Gulf region states. That is because they seek to have their problems resolved first. Those are issues that can be debated and we can explain. In the world, as you know, the United States' new strategy concerning Iran and Iraq has been based for two or three years now on blockading and pressuring both countries at the same time. That dual or two-sided containment is in fact the axis of U.S. foreign policy concerning Iran and Iraq. That is why the Americans are certainly not inclined toward and do not agree with any normalization between Iran and Iraq lest it endangers their policy for maintaining their own interests. Well, the Americans tried. We believe it to be our natural right to resolve our problems in the region. And the two are not connected.

[Announcer] Many thanks Dr. Khorram. May I put the last question to you, which again concerns the visit to Iraq by the Iranian delegation led by you? There were widespread propaganda by the arrogance and Western media following the visit. The propaganda said that a close relationship between Iran and Iraq and establishment of ties between them can be a factor for opposing the Arabs and against the United States. How close to the truth is that propaganda?

[Khorram] I must tell you that, as you said, that is merely propaganda. In practice cooperation between Iran and Iraq for resolving their remaining disputes and mutual problems, which go back to the victory of the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran, is not in opposition to any state or any region, whether in the West or the Persian Gulf. On the contrary. The United States and the big powers are a different story. But we think that if the Persian Gulf regional states think properly and deeply about the issue, they will see that any sort of peace and stability in the region will be to their benefit and, conversely, the existence of any tension and state of animosity between any two countries in the region will be detrimental to the whole region and plunge it into turmoil. Therefore we think that any normalization between Iran and Iraq is not against the interests of the regional states, nor do we intend to establish better relations with one state and reduce our relations with others. Before making the visit to Iraq we had positive cooperation with the Persian Gulf region and still do and we are endeavoring along that path. We believe any normalization among the eight regional states will be to the benefit of the whole region. Of course the situation becomes different when it comes to big powers since, as I explained in my last answer, the U.S. policy is dual containment, but it is our natural right to resolve our problems and not allow time for settlement to pass.

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'Heartening Progress' Seen in Relations With Iraq

NC0206092095 Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 May 95 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "The Repercussions of Developments in Iran-Iraq Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the visit by an Iranian delegation to Baghdad and the announcement that an Iraqi delegation would soon be visiting Tehran, our foreign minister spoke to correspondents and advised of the news that Tehran and Baghdad decided to improve relations.

The foreign minister mentioned that the two countries agreed on issues that had been major points of difference, including the issue of POW's. Indeed, this is a commendable move to mutual understanding and a broadening of bilateral relations. There is no doubt that putting an eight-year war and the Iraqi regime's aggression against Iran into the past is difficult for the people and officials to accept. However, this major task could bring related valuable results to regional peace and stability.

The policies of coexistence and broadening of relations with neighbors are givens and Iraq's position is distinctive among our neighbors. The fact is, most of the international pressures, the rousing of the international atmosphere, along with certain actions by Iraq, disrupted the normalization of relations with Iraq. Some believed that policies of peaceful relations with southern Persian Gulf neighbors must be cautious and prudent in dealing with Baghdad. This concept has proved inefficient in practice and there is no need to present any reasons for this.

In other words, one of the prerequisites for the Persian Gulf shaykhs to comprehend Tehran's message of friendship and to respond to it appropriately depends on balanced relations between Tehran and Baghdad.

Our foreign policy should use effective levers in regional and international relations, such as the broadening of relations with countries such as Russia, France, India, and Iraq, while continuing to cooperate with countries such as Pakistan, Syria, and Libya. This is to ensure our foreign security and national stability.

Such cooperation not only takes on a distinctive meaning and implication within the framework of Iran's foreign policy strategies, it also serves to deter the negative moves of the enemies of the revolution. It is obvious that attaining this objective depends on our firm determination and will and the consistent monitoring of such a strategic [preceding word in English] policy. Thus, whenever there is any tension or strain in relations with the United States and its allies, the lever of relations with Russia or Iraq can be pulled. Thus, not only will damage to the trust between the two sides be minimized; it will also have a positive result, that is, it will not feature in the assessments of the enemies of the country as they would wish it to. [sentence as published]

The current international and regional circumstances provide a broad range for new regional pacts in which countries such as Iran, Russia, and Iraq can play decisive roles. Broadening relations with the countries mentioned above is essential to establish a new system of regional security, and the recent remarks by our foreign minister indicates heartening progress in relations with Baghdad. We should be optimistic that the Iraqi rulers will play their part appropriately, just as the Russians have proved successful in warding off U.S. pressure.

Attempts To Form Front With Iraq Near 'Collapse'

MM0106101895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 May 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Collapse of Attempts To Form Iraq-Iran Alliance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The attempts to bring Iran and Iraq together in a joint front against the United States appeared yesterday to be on the verge of collapse as the two countries resumed their media war against one another.

The first sign that the "accord," which was widely rumored to be possible, may in fact be unlikely to be achieved appeared last week when an Iranian delegation returned from Baghdad almost empty- handed. The delegation, headed by 'Ali Khorram, an Iranian Foreign Ministry senior official, was supposed to prepare the agenda for talks between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraqi officials in Baghdad but Tehran sources said yesterday that no agreement was reached on "fundamental issues."

Just hours after the Iranian delegation's return from Baghdad, the Iranian Intelligence and Security Ministry announced that eight people would be brought to trial on the charge of subversion and spying for Iraq.

The eight were arrested about two months ago. There was no clear reason for the projection of their case directly after Khorram's return from Baghdad.

The next step came from Iraq when Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a three-hour meeting with Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Baghdad-based Mojahedin-e Khalq organization.

The meeting was highlighted, giving the impression that Iraq was treating Rajavi as a major figure. At the end

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of the meeting a statement was issued saying that the two sides discussed "the Tehran mullahs' plots" aimed at undermining Iraq's security and peace in the region.

It is worth noting that Mojahedin-e Khalq now has bases on Iraqi territory where about 2,000 male and female fighters receive training on military operations all along the Iranian border. Iran has launched at least four air raids on these bases since 1992. The following are the main causes of the dispute between Iran and Iraq:

1. Tehran wants Baghdad to agree to the formation of an international commission to determine which of the two sides was responsible for starting the 1980-1988 war but Baghdad has rejected the Iranian request. Security Council Resolution 598 calls for the formation of such a commission by mutual agreement between the two sides.

2. Tehran wants talks on the payment of war reparations by Iraq. Baghdad says it has counter-demands but wishes to postpone discussion of that item until after settlement of the other provisions of Resolution 598.

3. Each side accuses the other of holding thousands of POW's. There is no agreement on the number of prisoners or even methods to be followed in search of persons missing in action.

4. Iran wants Iraq to expel Mojahedin-e Khalq, the (Iranian) Kurdish Democratic Party, the (Iranian) Kurdish Communist Party (Kumelah), and other smaller opposition groups from Iraqi territory. In return, Iraq wants Iran to take the first step by expelling Iraqi Shiite opposition groups based in Iran.

The idea of an Iraqi-Iranian alliance clearly has strong supporters and opponents in both capitals but the opponents of such an alliance are apparently the stronger in Baghdad. That is because several members of the leadership in Baghdad believe that Iraq is capable of presenting itself once more as a deterrent force against Iran, which would win it favor with the West and the moderate Arab states.

Russian Ambassador on 'Strategic' Ties

LD3105145395 Tehran IRNA in English
1432 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA — Russian ambassador here, Sergey M. Tretyakov, described Tehran-Moscow ties as strategic and stressed that bilateral cooperation will continue to grow.

Moscow's firm decision on Iran-Russia nuclear cooperation will not be disturbed, Tretyakov said in an interview published in the Wednesday [31 May] edition of the morning daily 'IRAN'.

The ambassador said Tehran-Moscow ties are connected to Russia's interests and that from the political point of view there is no obstacle hindering continuation of Tehran-Moscow cooperation. As for economic obligations of the contract, he cautiously said that Iran's ability to cover the cost of the contract might affect the program.

On the recent visit to Russia of U.S. President Bill Clinton, the Russian diplomat told the paper that Clinton's main aim was to block the continuation of Tehran-Moscow nuclear cooperation. However, President Boris Yeltsin explicitly declared that the cooperaion will be continued, said the ambassador.

Asked whether the Cold War will be replaced by a 'Cold Peace' in Washington-Moscow relations, he said he does not think that Yeltsin adheres to such a theory. Nevertheless, Russia as an independent country will not allow others to dictate policies on Moscow.

On Iran's status in Russian foreign policy, Tretyakov said Russia considers Iran as a great independent country. Although Iran and Russia no longer have common borders, the Caspian Sea is the joint heritage of the two countries and that Russia considers Iran as one of its important neighbours, he said. Iran and Russia share views on regional issues such as Karabakh, Tajikistan, and issues realting to the Caspian Sea and nuclear weapons as well as major international issues.

From the economic point of view, the Russian diplomat said, Iran could become a major trade partner of Russia and that's why attitude of Russian officials towards Iran is an 'strategic' attitude. He said experts from various ministries are now preparing documents to be signed during the forthcoming visit to Tehran of President Yeltsin. However, he said he could not give an specific date for the visit.

Touching on Iran-Russia views on formulation of a new legal regime for the Caspian Sea, Tretykov said that unlike the past, presently five countries are using the Caspian Sea resources. He said continued disorder in fisheries will be detrimental and stressed that Moscow maintains any unilateral move will be harmful to multilateral cooperation. He pointed out that both Moscow and Tehran share the view that there should be an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation among the countries bordering the Caspian Sea. Fortunately, Iran and Russia share common views in this regard and are working within the Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation organization.

As for Iran-Russia economic ties, Tretyakov said that unlike the political cooperation which is experiencing steady growth, the economic ties are stagnant. He

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expressed hope that the economic ties will keep pace with the political relations. Elaborating on talks on Iran's debt to Russia, Tretyakov said an economic delegation is to arrive in Tehran next week to exchange views over the issue.

Regarding Azerbaijan oil consortium, the Russian diplomat said Moscow is of the opinion that implementation of any contract should be within the framework of the new Caspian Sea's legal regime. He added that it looks that the consortium will intensify the existing differences since Kazakhstan is also planning to exploit oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea by forming an oil consortium with Italy and Britain.

Asked to comment on Iran's initiative to settle the Bosnian crisis, Tretyakov said Russia as a member of the international Contact Group approves efforts of Iran and Greece in holding tripartite meetings with officials of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Vice President Cited on Relations With China

NC0106205795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 25 May 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by Farideh Dada]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Executive Vice President and the President for the joint Iran-China Economic Commission, Hamid Mirzadeh, left for China yesterday. Referring to the importance of Iran and China in Asia and the Indian Ocean, he said in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, "Iran-China relations are very ancient and friendly. Three hundred years before Marco Polo we had a shipping route; the Silk Road was a bridge for commercial cooperation. China has used Iran's technology in construction of a subterranean canal. So Iran-China relations can be a good pattern for Third World countries."

Mirzadeh presides over a 26-member delegation from the Ministries of Commerce, Oil, Mines and Metals, Industries, Agriculture, Construction Jihad, Higher Education, Foreign Ministry, managing director of the Metro Company, members of the Atomic Energy Organization, the Central Bank, and a number of merchants.

There are three committees in the commission. Committee of Commerce and Oil; Committee of the Economy and Industry; and Committee of Science and Technology.

With regard to the Seventh Commission's achievements, Mirzadeh said, "Iran and China have complete relations. After the Islamic Revolution in Iran cooperation has increased. The cooperation includes cement factories; ferro-alloy production in Kahnuj; mineral condensing factory in Chador Malow in Yazd; hydro-electric power plants, project of Tehran-Karaj metro; melamine powder production in Urumiyeh; and agreement on the construction of two 300 MW units of atomic power plants in Bushehr. Some of these projects have been implemented and others are under construction."

Iran has announced its preparedness to implement projects of Float glass with a capacity of 120,000 tons a year, and construction of hydro-electric power plants with a maximum capacity of 5,000 MW. Its first phase costs $500 million.

With regard to China's new "Open Door Policy," the possibility of joint investment has been achieved in many fields.

iran exports 20,000 barrels of oil per day to China.

Mirzadeh said, "At present we do not have any financial problem with China. We will pay them part of what we owe in cash, and the other part will be paid by exporting oil.

The two countries have agreed upon the export of non-oil products and the establishment of stores in both countries to sell these products. The Export Promotion Center will hold an exhibition in Beijing, displaying and selling non-oil products.

Referring to shipbuilding as another field of cooperation, Mirzadeh said, "We have signed an agreement to build four phanamax ships amounting to $100 million, and six multipurpose ships. The two sides have announced their readiness to establish a zinc factory with a capacity of 10,000 tons a year in the Qeshm Free Trade Zone,"

In the Eighth Commission bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, technology, refineries, agriculture, atomic energy, laser, and silk processing industries will be discussed.

Cooperation in the fields of seismology, fisheries, production of shrimp food and fishing will also be discussed in the meeting, he said.

The proposed projects by the Mostaz'afan [oppressed] Foundation of Iran on construction of furfural factory and motor oil production in Shanghai will be taken up, Mirzadeh underlined.

On bilateral cooperation in cultural field, he said, "At present a Chinese-Persian and a Persian-Chinese dictionary have been published by the two countries. Persian course is also being taught in Chinese universities. There is also a Muslim state in China, Sym Kiang, which has been visited by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani."

He underlined, "We have also cooperation at international level to confront big powers."

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Mirzadeh also will hand over to the Chinese president an invitation letter from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he said.

Economic Relations With China Viewed

NC0206130295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 25 May 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran-China Cooperation, A Prelude to South-South Cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's Executive Vice-President, Hamid Mirzadeh, is in Beijing to preside over the Eighth Iran-China Joint Economic Commission to begin today.

Iran and China enjoy a special position in their respective regions, i.e., in Southeast Asia and the Persian Gulf. Cooperation between the two regional powers is necessary for a meaningful cooperation among Asian countries.

Taking into account the fact that in the post-Cold War world regional cooperation has replaced the former power blocs, Iran-China cooperation can play a very crucial role in paving the way for a comprehensive cooperation among Asian countries to emerge as a monolithic bloc.

China has proven that it is a reliable friend and partner. It has shown that it won't surrender to the U.S.—which considers itself the only power in the emerging world order.

After the collapse of the monarchy, Iran has been the only power in the Persian Gulf to oppose U.S. domination.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union has indeed changed East- West antagonism to North-South confrontation. A considerable number of the countries in the South happen to be in Asia.

South-South cooperation should be strengthened in order to ward off exploitation by the North. The Tehran-Islamabad-New Delhi- Beijing axis can constitute the backbone of this cooperation.

Iran and China have made considerable headway in bilateral cooperation. The joint economic commission will not only assess past achievements but explore avenues for further expansion of ties. Let us hope the Iran-China bilateral cooperation will pave the way for multilateral cooperation among Asian countries.

Rowhani Outlines Goals Pursued by Fourth Majles

LD0206121795 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA — The Majles Vice Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Hassan Rowhani said here today that the most important goals of the fourth Majles which is nearing its term, have been social justice, pooling private resources towards national development projects, promoting non-oil exports, reforming the administrative structure and controlling foreign obligations.

Dr. Rowhani, who was addressing the Friday [2 June] prayer gathering at Tehran University as a pre-sermon speaker, said laws passed by the legislature to attain the above objectives have taken into consideration support for the vulnerable strata of society, subsidies on essential items, public insurance, housing for low income classes and directing the budget towards completion of development plans.

He said promotion of non-oil exports was the only way to guarantee the country's future and its prosperity, adding that this has always been given due attention by the Majles.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rowhani, who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said the Majles supports the government and that such support was necessary in view of the country's reconstruction efforts and the pressure being put on it by foreign powers.

Low-Income Taxpayers Complain About Tax Rate

95LA0227H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran, IRNA—In the first 11 months of this year, 490 billion tumans in taxes have been collected, which marks an increase of 43 percent compared to a similar period last year.**

Ahmad Hoseyni, deputy minister of economic affairs and finance for tax revenues, said yesterday (Sunday) in a gathering of tax assessors from throughout the country: In the first 11 months of this year, 69 percent of projected tax revenues have been collected.

According to him, direct taxes also amount to 1.61 trillion rials [R], which includes 37 percent in direct taxes and shows a growth of 6 percent compared to a similar period last year.

The deputy minister of finance added: So far, about 1 million economic codes have been issued in the country, and this work will continue.

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Hoseyni added: Of the complaints, 80-85 percent concern low-income taxpayers, and, with their knowledge of their tax area, general assessors must solve the problems regarding tax assessment documents that waste the time of employees and low-income taxpayers and attend to taxpayers who have clearly high incomes.

In this gathering, Daryush Iranbandi, the general deputy of the minister of economic affairs and finance, also emphasizing that the collection of taxes is vital for the operation of the country, said: The managers and employees of this ministry must know what the goals of tax collection are, and they must act in a way that will not harm the national economy.

He added: Assessors must differentiate between businessmen who are in the production sector and individuals who engage in buying and selling in the service sectors with regard to tax collection.

New Rates for Pipes, Tubing Published

95LA0227L Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The new prices for various kinds of pipes and square iron tubing for all production factories and units in the country were announced.**

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization, the prices for every kilogram [kg] of various kinds of pipes and square metal tubing are as follows:

black 1.2 inch diameter pipes—1,350 rials [R], and galvanized pipes—R2,095;

black 2.4 inch pipes—R1,350, and galvanized pipes—R1,951;
black 1, 1.25, and 1.5 inch pipes—R1,280, and galvanized pipes—R1,872;
black 2 inch diameter pipes—R1,195, and galvanized pipes—R1,787; and
black pipes larger than 2 inches—R1,136, and galvanized pipes—R1,625.

Based on the same report, the prices per kg for various kinds of square metal tubing are as follows:

small, cold and warm square metal tubing, with a circumference less than 100 millimeters [mm] and a thickness of 2 mm or less—R1,496;

square metal tubing with a circumference of 100-360 mm and multiple cold and warm square metal tubing from sheets with a thickness of 2 mm or less—R1,463; and

square metal tubing over 360 mm in circumference—R1,096.

Vegetable Oil To Be Distributed

95LA0227K Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Feb 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—In Esfand [20 February-20 March] this year, more than 21,000 tons of vegetable oil (solid and liquid) will be distributed on the open market and at the ratified price throughout Tehran.**

This amount is in addition to the coupon share of vegetable oil.

According to the report by RESALAT's economic correspondent, 1,000 tons of Ladan liquid vegetable oil will begin being distributed early next week in stores throughout Tehran.

Based on the same report, the distribution of 1,000 tons of liquid vegetable oil that started early this week and the distribution of 680 tons of liquid vegetable oil that started on Monday in the stores throughout the province of Tehran are now continuing.

This report adds: In addition to the distribution of shortening on the open market, a subsidized vegetable oil coupon will also be announced in Esfand.

Also, the share of industrial vegetable oil in Esfand will increase to 1,882 tons, and considering that the sugar needed by the Confectioners Guild has been provided in sufficient amounts, there should be no increase in the price of sweets during the New Year holidays.

Based on the same report, considering the widespread distribution of shortening throughout the province of Tehran, it is expected that the shortages will be eliminated.

Majles To Receive Report on Investigation

95LA0227J Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—Members of the inquiry and investigation group of the Majles concerning "the Foundation for Self-Sacrificers and the Oppressed" presented a report on the activities of this group in a press conference.**

According to a report by our correspondent, Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji, chairman of the inquiry and investigation group, first referred to the request of 23 deputies of the Majles in early 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] concerning this issue and said: The Majles ratified the necessity for inquiry and investigation on 20/06/

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1373 [11 September 1994]. Following this ratification, the Institutions Committee appointed a committee to study the great dimensions in which the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificers and the Oppressed is active, both in terms of vast investments in the economy (commercial, trade, agricultural, and industrial) and in terms of the affairs of the self-sacrificers and the oppressed.

He then referred to the duties of this committee and summed up the report saying: The Inquiry and Investigation Committee, in the course of six months of activity, has gained access to information, documents, and complaints that it is now analyzing. In the near future it will present its findings to the Institutions Committee, and then in a month or two it will present them to the Majles. Also, more than 100 questions exist in this connection, to which the necessary responses will be given by the honorable director of the foundation and other officials of the units.

He emphasized: Of course, there are positive points in this report that must not be ignored and certainly these positive points will be mentioned.

Habibian, another member of the Inquiry and Investigation Committee, added in this connection: There are a number of instances of violation in the report, some of which have not been proved; if proved they will be mentioned in the report.

Also, regarding the cooperation of the officials of the foundation with the members of the committee, Movahhedi-Savoji said: On the whole, Mr. Rafiqdust, the head of the foundation, and his deputies have been very cooperative, and so far we have had no instance in which the foundation has refused to cooperate with the committee.

Continuing this interview, stating that the decision concerning the report is not the responsibility of the Majles but the grand leader, he said: The grand leader is first aware of the activities of the institutions under his honor's supervision, and we are grateful to his eminence for having agreed to prepare this report before this request is discussed in the Majles.

In conclusion, referring to the cooperation of the experts outside and within the Majles with the members of the committee, Movahhedi-Savoji said: We have made good use of the experiments of the National Inspection Office, the Accounting Office, and the Auditing Organization, and they were assigned to help the group, for which we thank them all.

It is interesting that Messrs Movahhedi, Habibian, Qanbari, Karimpur, and Mahdavi-Kermani participated in this interview.

Information Given on Industrial Profits

95LA0227G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—By the end of the current year, for the first time in Iran, the profit indexes in the various industries of the country will be determined, which managers of industrial units can use to adjust their operations and output.**

Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries who yesterday (Monday) was speaking at a gathering of reporters concerning profits in the country, made this announcement and added: A positive outlook on life, work, future, and improvements in profit are the main sources of economic development in the country.

Engineer Ne'matzadeh said: Having the necessary knowledge, planning, and coordination for tasks are other factors that are needed to raise the level of profit, and we must pay attention to them.

He added: Profit is not separate from development and progress, and if the developed countries also want to develop economic, social, and cultural terms, there is no way to do it without paying attention to profit.

He said: Profit is not only for economic issues, commerce, and industry, but is connected to all other work including housekeeping, education, etc.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the situation of production and the import of vehicles into the country and said: According to law, the domestic companies, by paying customs fees and taxes and offering services after the sale, may engage in importing foreign vehicles.

He added: The ratification and implementation of this law is good and is not problematic, and in order to control foreign vehicle imports and be able to meet the needs of the domestic market, we must increase the level of production of domestic vehicles as much as possible.

Emphasizing that the increase in production of vehicles in the country is a main concern of the Ministry of Industries, Engineer Ne'matzadeh said: The current level of production of inexpensive sedans, such as the Peykan, Pride, Nasim, and Saba, in the country has increased.

Regarding this year's level of production of general passenger vehicles, such as taxis, the minister of industries said: One of the new policies in 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] is to increase the level of production and supply of passenger vehicles for public transportation.

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He added: This year it is projected that more than 10,000-11,000 taxis will be produced and offered to applicants at the ratified price of the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization; that is, 19.5 million rials.

The minister of industries said: The selling price of domestically produced vehicles will be determined by the Economic Council this year.

Official Says Exports Should Be Facilitated

95LA0237B Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran (IRNA)—The Fourth International Exhibition of Mining Machinery, Equipment, and Decorative Stones was inaugurated here Thursday [27 April] by Majlis Speaker, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said in a speech after inspecting various pavilions that export regulations and laws should facilitate export of goods by Iranian producers.

Security should be provided for all sectors so that investors could be encouraged to invest in various fields.

He said that thanks [to] God, the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys high potentials because of its geographical location and diverse climate conditions that should be utilized in the best possible way.

Recalling the emphasis laid by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, on the need to cut off the country's dependence on oil, the Majlis speaker said "to avoid being fully dependent on oil which is a God-given capital, we should invest in different sectors to boost the country's hard currency revenues and achieving this goal needs contribution of all people from various walks of life."

He termed as "highly significant" Iran's export of decorative stones to such countries as Italy and said that stone quarries need foreign exchange and that stones can be processed into various products.

He added that today Iranian engineers are capable to make "very beautiful" artificial stones out of stone powder which could not be easily distinguished from natural ones.

Also addressing the audience, Mines and Metals Minister, Hoseyn Mahluji said the number of active mines in the countries rose from 800 in 1368 (March 1989—March 1990) to 1,600 during last Iranian calendar year, mostly being put into operation by the private sector.

Mahluji said that the amount of stones extracted from mines in Iran climbed to 80 million tons last year from 40 million tons in the preceding year.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commerce Minister and Head of the Export Promotion Center of Iran, 'Ali Sa'idlo said at the ceremony that the export of minerals and metals in the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan earned the country $1.2 billion.

Sa'idlo said that in view of favorable marketing of Iranian minerals and metals, the figure has increased to $1.6 billion, showing a 33-percent rise compared to the target figure in the First Plan.

He concluded that the share of minerals in gross national product (GNP) rose to Rls.350 billion in 1371 (March 21, 1992-March 20, 1993) from Rls.102.5 billion in 1367 (March 21, 1988-March 20, 1989)

A total of 120 Iranian firms and 24 companies from Germany, Malaysia, Italy, Japan and Finland have put their products on show at the fair.

Bandar-e 'Abbas Storage Capacity Expanded

95LA0237A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 May 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Upon completion of the Bandar-e 'Abbas-Sirjan Railway, the capacity of storage of merchandise at Bandar-e 'Abbas harbor increased from 12 million to 24 million tons per year.

The managing director of Kerman Development Organization and executor of the design of the Sirjan Free Trade Zone, Mohammad Reza Shahbakhsh, said yesterday, "In the Sirjan Free Trade Zone 280 hectares of regional land have been reserved for the storage of 12 million tons of goods. Since the establishment of the region, more than 20,000 tons of merchandise have been imported and stored; 12,000 tons of it have cleared customs."

He added, "The Sirjan Free Trade Zone is the only free zone in Iran in which businessmen can open credit accounts."

Referring to loans for industrial investments and the storage of goods, Shahbakhsh said, "The Sirjan International Airport will be inaugurated next month with a twenty-billion-rial [rls] investment.

"At present, the importation of any kind of merchandise is free, except for prohibited ones. In order to support domestic and foreign investments, we have considered the necessary guarantees."

He cited, "A factory for producing vegetable oil, with the capacity of 700,000 tons of refined oil per year, is

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under construction. It will be put into operation next February."

Kerman Development Organization's investment in the Sirjan Free Trade Zone is about Rls.150 billion, he said. "The zone is ready to accept merchandise for storage and transportation to Central Asian countries."

Pakistan

Bhutto Says Group 'Scheming To Assassinate Her'

BK0206030295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the government is moving in a big way to restore peace and normalcy in Karachi following its successful campaigns against sectarianism, militancy, and narcotics. Speaking informally to reporters at the Parliament House in Islamabad last evening, she expressed confidence that this long-standing problem will be resolved. [passage omitted]

Without naming any political group, the prime minister said a linguistic [lisani] group is scheming to assassinate her, the chief minister, and other government ministers. She said she will sacrifice her life to protect the country. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Views Karachi Violence, Indian Troops

BK0106164095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the government is moving in a bid to restore peace and normalcy in the troubled city of Karachi after its successful campaign against sectarianism, weaponism, militancy and narcotics. Talking informally to newsmen in her chamber in the Parliament House this evening, she expressed the confidence that this long-standing problem will be resolved during the tenure of the people's government. The prime minister said the doors of the government were open for a political dialogue provided arms are laid and wanted criminals are surrendered. She said the government has fulfilled the demands of the people of Karachi about their development needs by launching a massive program in all sectors, withdrawal of army, appointment of a muhajir governor and now elections to the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation would be held as soon as the financial position of the corporation improves.

The prime minister said they have received information that members of an urban-based ethnic group and a rural-based ethnic group were receiving training and financial assistance from abroad. The prime minister said the government was keeping a strict vigil on the activities of these organizations, but pointed out that they have no political base in Sindh. The prime minister cautioned the nation that those killing muhajirs and members of law enforcing agencies have ulterior motives to demoralize the government and the people at large so as to make them submit to their demands. Replying to a question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she was prepared to take the opposition, including Muslim League-Nawaz Group, into confidence about the situation in Karachi and she was ready to give them a confidential briefing as well. She said the government has told [Muhajir Qaumi Movement Chief] Altaf Hussain that he can return home, but will have to face the process of law.

Replying to questions on yesterday's incident of firing by Indian troops across the Line of Control, the prime minister said India resorts to such tactics to warn Pakistan and depress the Kashmiris. She pointed out that India could not silence the Kashmiris despite incessant repression against them. She said the problem of Kashmir can be honorably solved if India honors late Jawaharlal Nehru's commitment of a plebiscite. Kashmir is a disputed territory and not an integral part of India. To another question about concentration of Indian troops on the Line of Control, the prime minister declared there was nothing to worry as Pakistan is fully capable of defending its territory.

Attacks on Karachi Police Stations Injure 2

BK0106134995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, June 1 (AFP) — Prolonged violence here took a dangerous turn Thursday [1 June] as two car bombs rocked the provincial assembly building and a naval residential district, while two police stations were attacked with rockets, officials said.

No one was hurt in the explosions, but three rockets fired at two police stations in the city left two policemen seriously injured, they said. The policemen were hospitalized, they added.

Fear of more trouble gripped the city, already shaken by recurring violence that has claimed 600 lives this year, as the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) called for a series of strikes from June 11.

The MQM call, its leaders said, was to protest against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent verbal attacks interpreted by the party as an insult to the large Urdu-speaking Mohajir commmunity it claims to represent. Mohajirs migrated from India after the the sub- continent's partition in 1947.

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Witnesses and police said A car bomb explosion at the Sindh provincial assembly in central Karachi scattered debris and shrapnel for several hundred meters (yards).

Within an hour, another bomb, placed in a taxicab, exploded near a Pakistan Navy residential district in the lyari area, several kilometers (miles) from the site of the first blast.

Police said two rockets were fired at the New Karachi police station in the central district, which was hit by one, causing serious injuries to two policemen.

Another police station in the Zaman Town area in east Karachi was also targetted, but the rocket hit a large tree.

No one has claimed responsibility for Thursday's attacks and government officials avoided blaming any group. MQM said it was not involved.

"This is terrorism," said Nabil Gabol, the deputy speaker of the provinical assembly, adding the perpetrators "want to tell the already terrorised people that even elected representatives can be attacked."

Meanwhile, a new shadowy organisation, calling itself Mohajir Rights Front (MRS), has faxed statements to newspaper offices, threatening to assassinate national political figures.

"We have nothing to do with this group, we don't know who they are," said MQM spokesman, Shoaib Bokhari.

The editor of an Urdu language newspaper Parcham, was arrested Thursday, said Mazhar Abbas, president of the Karachi journalists union.

Abbas said the reason for the arrest was known yet, but it was believed to be linked to the publication by the daily of the MRS hit list. [sentence as received]

Kazakhstan Delegation Pays Official Visit

Discusses Crime, Narcotics Issues

BK3105110495 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 31 May 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, May 30 — A five-member Kazakhstan delegation, headed by Interior Minister, Lt. Gen. Baykenov B.A. arrived here Monday [29 May] on a week-long visit at the invitation by the Federal Minister for Interior, Maj Gen. (Retd) Nasirullah Khan Babar.

At meetings of the Kazakhstan delegation here Tuesday with the representatives of the senior officers of the ministries and departments concerned headed by Maj Gen. (Retd) Nasirullah Khan Babar, Minister for Interior, a number of issues of mutual interest were discussed in detail.

The Kazakhstan side showed keen interest in close mutual cooperation of both sides in combating organised crimes, drugs and arms trafficking, terrorism etc. In that direction, both sides concluded two draft agreements for mutual cooperation between the two countries. These agreements will be signed during the visit of the Kazakhstan delegation.

The Federal Minister for Interior assured them all whatever assistance, as may be required by the Kazakhstan side, within the competence of Pakistan. Both the sides resolved for continued efforts in these fields.

The Minister for Interior requested for the influence and pressure of Kazakhstan's President on the Indian authorities for the resolution of the Kashmir issues in accordance with the UN Resolutions.

Talking to Maj Gen. Salah-ud-Din, Federal Secretary, Narcotics Control Division, DC Anti-Narcotics Force the Interior Minister of Kazakhsatan, Lt Gen B. Baykenov commended anti-narcotics force's efforts in interdiction of illegal narco-trafficking from Pakistan and said that his country desired to benefit itself from ANF's experience and gains in this particular field.

He was visiting at the head of the delegation to ANF Headquarters.

During the meeting which was also attended by the members of Kazakhstan delegation Kazakhstan ambassador to Pakistan and senior officials of ANF, possibilities were explored for having cooperation between the two countries is efforts to effectively deal with the menace of drug abuse and elimination of illegal narco-trafficking. These included provision of training facilities to the anti- narcotics personnel of Kazakhstan in Pakistan.

Earlier, Maj Gen Salah-ud-Din Tirmizi briefed the Kazakhstan delegation about the measures taken by Government of Pakistan to eliminate the poppy cultivation and to effectively deal with the drug abuse and narco-trafficking problems. He also apprised the Kazakhstan delegation of successes attained by ANF in interdiction of narcotics-trafficking.

Meets With Leghari, Views Cooperation

BK0106033295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said Kazakhstan and Pakistan should identify areas and build communication links to

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increase trade and economic cooperation between them and with other countries of the region.

The president was talking to the minister for interior of Kazakhstan, Lieutenant General Baykenov, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] today. The president said the economies of the two countries are complementary, and as such they could benefit enormously from the tremendous economic activities and trade opportunities in the Central Asian region. He said Kazakhstan and Pakistan could also cooperate with each other for effectively combating organized crime, production and proliferation of narcotics, and arms trafficking.

The interior minister of Kazakhstan assured the president that his country was also keen to enhance economic and trade cooperation with Pakistan and to work together in their war against drugs. Pakistan's interior minister, Major General Retired Nasirullah Khan Babar; ambassador of Kazakhstan in Pakistan, Mr. (Tamas Etmohabbetov); and concerned senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Signs Pact To Combat Crime, Narcotics

BK0206010195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Kazakhstan have decided to cooperate with each other in combating organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, terrorism and other heinous crimes. An agreement to this effect was signed in Islamabad today between the two countries.

The federal minister for interior and narcotics control, Major General Retired Nasirullah Babar, and interior minister of Kazakhstan, Lieutenant General Baykenov, signed the agreement on behalf of their governments. The two countries decided to exchange information on planned and committed terrorist acts as well as terrorist groups planning and committing crimes, threatening the other countries interests. They also decided to devise proper ways and means to combat illegal migration.

Another agreement signed between the two countries provides equal protection to rights and freedom of their citizens, their lawful interests and property.

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